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Saguy: Christopher coming without a plan

LIAT COLLINS

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is starting his latest Middle East shuttle this week without any real program to overcome the inertia in the negotiations with Syria, OC Intelligence Branch Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. Christopher is to arrive in Egypt today.

Syrian President Hafez Assad is less bothered by the time factor than Israel or the US, Saguy said. He added, however, that Assad realizes he can no longer achieve what he could have hoped for a year ago. The Syrians believe Israel has lost the momentum and ability to reach an agreement with them, Saguy said. He repeated the assessment that Assad is willing to accept no less than a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking to a convention of Reform rabbis yesterday, said Israel is ready to resume talks with the Syrians and he hopes Christopher's visit will at least lead to a resumption of talks between the two countries in Washington.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told a conference of local council heads in Jerusalem yesterday that "I don't believe Syrian President Hafez Assad really wants peace. To this day, he has not shown that he has made the strategic decision that he indeed is interested in peace."

Saguy also reviewed the situation in Iran and expressed concern over its arms policy. In his opinion, Iran will reach nuclear capability in eight to 10 years, not three to five as some government sources quoted him as saying after his previous address to the Knesset committee.

In Damascus, meanwhile, a state-run newspaper said yesterday Christopher faces little chance of success in efforts this week to restart peace talks between Israel and Syria. *Herb Keiron contributed to this report.*

Soldier kills ex-girlfriend, shoots self

RAINE MARCUS

DORIT Hakim, 21, was killed by her soldier boyfriend, Shai Maimon, 22, in Mazeret Barya yesterday.

She was the second woman to have been killed by her partner this year.

Maimon shot her in the neck and abdomen, before shooting himself in the head. He was taken to Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital in serious condition.

Police said the couple, who had been together for about three years, had split up around a week ago, and that Maimon apparently couldn't cope with the separation.

The murder occurred in the Maimon family home. Maimon's (Continued on Page 2)



Jewish settlers in Arab garb yesterday dramatize 'the return of the Palestinian refugees' at Jerusalem's Atarot Airport. See story, Page 2. (Efraim Kilshuk)

Kessar, MKs implicated in Histadrut investigation

BILL HUTMAN

funds for his Labor primary campaign in 1992, for questioning, a senior police source said.

"We have no problem summoning either a Knesset member or minister," the source said. "At this stage, we simply are still gathering material and it is too early to say when and who exactly will be interrogated."

The police spokesman yesterday denied the police were behind reports that Kessar would be questioned soon. "As is known, it is not our policy to say who we plan to interrogate," the spokesman said.

Fassa, who last week signed an agreement to testify for the prosecution, will likely be questioned again today.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday told personal credit for the opening of the Histadrut fraud investigation, which centers on alleged wrongdoings by his own party.

Shahal said he is under pressure by Labor Party members, but that he has not allowed this to effect the probe.

"There are those within the party who have made threats about my future," Shahal said at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday, at which he for the first time gave official details concerning the case.

Shahal said that, in September 1993, a source gave him a draft of an incomplete Histadrut comptroller's report which detailed financial wrongdoing by Labor Party officials.

"I read the report for an entire

night," Shahal said. He then turned it over to then fraud division head Cmdr. Ze'ev Even-Hen, through the inspector-general at the time, Rafi Peled.

Shahal said the investigation eventually was divided into three major areas, one of which is nearly complete and will lead to charges being brought soon against Labor Party officials.

Police have already uncovered evidence that Labor officials used Histadrut funds to hire a detective company to gather information on Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon, when he was running for the post last year.

Police sources said that at issue is the payment of some NIS 600,000 by Haberfeld's campaign headquarters to the Gama detective company.

Two other instances where improprieties by Labor Party officials were reportedly found were the 1992 Knesset primaries and last year's Histadrut election campaign.

"Hundreds of thousands of shekels were taken for the party [from the Histadrut] for use in the primary," Shahal said.

Shahal said the investigating team would likely be expanded soon, in order to speed up the investigation.

"I hope the investigation will be finished soon," Shahal said. "One of the conclusions we reached for the [Aryeh] Deri case is that we shouldn't allow investigations to drag out for a long time." The investigation of Deri lasted four years.

Labor damage control, Page 12

State comptroller to supervise Histadrut

LIAT COLLINS

They were prepared to accept a comptroller for the IDF and the General Security Services - just not for the Histadrut.

"Everybody knew that the

US investors buy into Koor

THE US Shamrock Group, an investment firm controlled by the Disney family, has signed an agreement in principle to buy Hevrat Ha'ovdim's 22.51 percent share in Koor Industries for \$252 million, the group announced yesterday. Full report, Page 8

Peres confronted by stiff opposition in debate on refugees

Panels to discuss return of Palestinians

STEVE RODAN

AMMAN

into Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. "We wanted concrete confidence-building measures," Shaath said after the meeting. "We wanted numbers, specific numbers of people coming tomorrow."

Israel rejected the PLO's demand, despite the support of Egypt and Jordan, represented by foreign ministers Amr Moussa and Abdul Karim Kabariti. For hours, the four delegations thrashed out drafts of a communique that would represent their conflicting positions.

In the end, everyone expressed satisfaction with the joint communique. They agreed to establish a permanent committee, composed of two panels. One would consist of Shaath and the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and Jordan and would meet every two or three months. The other would be composed of experts, and will convene every three weeks.

Israel won a delay of immediate gestures. "Relevant confidence-building measures shall be discussed in the permanent committee," the communique read.

The PLO claimed a victory with the next paragraph: "The ministerial committee reaffirms its commitment to the speedy solution of this question to enhance the peace process."

The differences in approach toward the issue were apparent from the opening statements. The Arab speakers stressed that Israel, in previous agreements including the 1978 Camp David Accords, had already recognized the

right of the 1967 refugees to return to their homes and, as a result, should discuss its immediate implementation.

Kabariti was the most specific. Speaking in Arabic, to the dismay of Peres, who does not understand the language, he set priorities for the return of the refugees. First on his list were those who neither have Jordanian nationality nor passports. They should be followed by Palestinians in Jordan with family in the territories or those whose Israeli residence permits had expired.

Kabariti said the return of the Palestinians should proceed according to the capability of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to absorb them.

Peres responded that security should be the most important element in the talks. He stressed that Israel does not want a Palestinian return to spark unrest.

"Firstly, we must discuss the facts," Peres said. "How many people are concerned? Where are they living? What are their preferences? What is the best way to solve the problem? What are the resources needed, and from where we will get them?"

The delegations decided to convene the first meeting of the panel of experts in a month. Privately, both Israeli and Arab officials agreed that the negotiations would be long and strenuous.

In the meantime, Peres ruled out Israel allowing Palestinians to begin returning to their homes. "Every concession must be carefully studied to ensure that there is no precedent," he said. "I am not Uncle Sam. I didn't come to hand out sweets."

Shohat calls for immediate interest-rate cut

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE pressure to significantly lower interest rates has pitted Finance Minister Abraham Shohat, who wants an immediate cut, against Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, who is waiting for the government to slash NIS 2 billion from the budget before reducing them substantially.

"Real interest rates are unbearably high, burdening those paying mortgages and bank overdrafts," Shohat said last night at the local government convention in Jerusalem.

"Interest rates must go down without conditioning them on budget cuts or a specific timetable," he added.

He emphasized that the need for a reduction is more important than a game of declarations, alluding to the central bank's statements that rates will probably go down next month based on inflation data.

Shohat refused to talk about a budget cut, saying that if he said he is considering it, people will assume he will go ahead, and if he says he is not considering it, then everyone will think the Treasury rejected the proposal out of hand.

In the past few days, rumors have been

circulating that the Treasury is considering cutting some taxes toward the end of the year.

Shohat met with Frenkel last night and, although both claimed the meeting was routine, the public pressure for lower interest rates dominated the discussion.

Bank of Israel spokesman Ohad Bar-Efrat said the central bank agreed with Shohat that there were no conditions for lowering interest rates, which, if inflation indicators continue showing moderation in prices, will most likely be reduced next month, "since our tight monetary policy is having results."

Bar-Efrat admitted, however, that should the government cut spending, the Bank of Israel will be able to reduce rates more significantly, since it will have greater certainty that this year's inflation goal of 8 percent-11 percent will be reached.

Should the cabinet decide on the budget cuts now, even if they will only become effective at the end of the year, the central bank will be ready to significantly reduce rates immediately, he added.

Five killed on roads in North

DAVID RUDGE

FIVE people - three of them from the same family - were killed on the roads in the north yesterday.

The tragedy involving the family occurred in the early afternoon when their car crashed head-on into an ambulance near the Golan junction.

Those killed were the car driver Isham Adawi, aged 20, Mohammed Adawi, nine, and six-

year-old Samah, all from Turan village. Another passenger in the car, Awadi Adawi, three, was seriously injured.

The driver of the ambulance and two other people were also injured and were taken to the Poriya Hospital for treatment.

Police said the car was traveling from Tiberias towards the

Golani junction when it swerved off the road. The driver apparently tried to bring the vehicle back but it swerved into the opposite lane, colliding head-on with the ambulance which dragged the vehicle for several meters before both came to a stop. The road was closed in both directions for over an hour.

Earlier in the day, a 72-year-old (Continued on Page 2)

Dollar sinks to new low

NEW YORK (AP) - The battered dollar plunged to record lows against the German mark and the Japanese yen yesterday as investors worldwide dumped the currency and the US government took no action to halt the sell-off.

Last night in New York, the dollar was trading at 1.3715 marks, below the previous low of 1.3870 set in September 1992 and down from 1.4048 late Monday. The dollar also fetched 90.14 yen, down from 92.80 late Monday, the previous low.

However, in Israel the dollar gained 0.07% against the shekel. Financial reports, Page 9

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IDF, police disagree on separation plan

BILL HUTMAN and ALON PINKAS

THE IDF and the police are reportedly at odds over the best way to separate Israelis and Palestinians.

Before meeting with senior IDF officers yesterday evening, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told reporters there were few differences between the police and army about the separation plan.

IDF representatives on the committee, however, criticized Shahal's plan as being too ambitious, too expensive and difficult to implement.

Shahal said the plan being expected to cost NIS 400,000-NIS 500,000. He said the cost was far lower than originally expected because soldiers, not policemen, would conduct the patrols being planned to keep Palestinians from Judea and Samaria from illegally entering Israel.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, his deputy, Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, OC Operations Maj.-Gen. Shmuel Arad, and the head of the Central and Southern commands, who met with Shahal, proposed a leaner and more problem-point focused plan, at an estimated cost considerably lower than that proposed by the police.

The police plan calls for army units, aided by attack dogs and helicopters, to patrol a corridor several kilometers east of the Green Line to prevent Palestinians from entering

the country.

Between eight and 10 checkpoints, also east of the Green Line, are to be built, and Palestinians will only be allowed to cross through them. Severe penalties will be imposed on Palestinians who try to cross without permits.

The checkpoints will be manned by policemen, who are better trained than soldiers for positions which require a great deal of contact with the public.

Shahal said he had yet to hear from the Finance Ministry, which must approve the funding.

The army contends the police concept of a corridor east of the Green Line, in which checkpoints, patrols, and electronic devices will be deployed, is wasteful and will not necessarily prevent infiltrations.

"All you need is one suicide bomber to infiltrate, and everyone will question the concept, its costs and entire viability. Our position is that if separation is a priority, then no measure is more effective than a protracted and indefinite closure," a senior IDF source said.

The army proposes local separation areas, such as between the Erez checkpoint and the beach on the northern tip of the Gaza Strip, and similar augmented patrols and electronic means in places where Arab villages and towns are close to Israeli ones.

Barak: Arafat could crack down on Hamas

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat could crack down on militants if he had the wish to do so, according to former chief of staff Ehud Barak.

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, Barak said Arafat is "stronger than people believe," and could act against Hamas if necessary. Barak also said Israel should not proceed with redeployment until Arafat crushes Hamas.

Israel should strive for "separation" from the Palestinians to "minimize the human friction between the two peoples and allow for mutu-

al cooperation on economic ventures," Barak told columnist Lally Weymouth.

OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy reportedly said yesterday that the Palestinian Authority is trying to reach an agreement with Hamas and Islamic Jihad to prevent Gaza from serving as a base for attacks on Israelis.

He was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

Peace Watch: PA violates Oslo accord on Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

SEVEN Palestinian Authority institutions are operating in Jerusalem, in direct violation of the Oslo Accords, the Peace Watch group reported yesterday.

The group noted that the number of PA institutions operating in Jerusalem has increased since the Gaza/Jericho agreement was signed in May, when there were three such institutions.

At the same time, "the diplomatic activity of the PA has radically diminished in Orient House, and the majority of high-level diplomatic meetings have taken place in Gaza," according to the report.

Orient House, the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs, Palestinian Energy Center, Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, the Office of the Mufti, the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, and Palestinian Broadcasting Authority, are the seven PA offices operating in Jerusalem.

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America House, Tel Aviv.



Amnesty International-Israel deputy chairman Orna Rabinovich-Pundak and Amnesty world executive member Selso Garberes focus on women's rights at a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday marking International Women's Day. (Gideon Markovitz/TPPA)

Germany waits for Arab okay before funding Jordan River dams

DAVID MAKOVSKY

GERMANY is waiting for Syria and the Palestinians to give their consent before it will agree to finance the construction of dams that Israel has sought to help alleviate Jordan's water shortage, according to a senior German official.

"A gentleman's agreement is needed with both the Syrians and Palestinians," ensuring they do not interfere with the project, the official said. Both Syria and the Palestinians have claims to the Jordan River.

Another German official said yesterday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan are expected to visit Bonn within the next 10 days in a bid to win German backing for financing a good portion of the dams, which would be constructed on the Yarmouk and Jordan Rivers.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's national security adviser, Joachim Bettele, informed Israeli officials last week that Bonn is interested in helping to build the dams.

As part of the peace treaty with Jordan, Israel agreed to cooperate with Jordan in the building of dams. At the time, a senior Israeli official said Jerusalem promised to do its best to secure international funding for the projects. Israeli estimates for the dams and accompanying infrastructure have ranged from as little as \$125 million to as much as \$400m.

But it remains far from clear

whether Syria would give tacit agreement to such a project, given its opposition to the peace treaty. One of the three sources of the Jordan River is the Banyas in the Golan, and the international community does not recognize Israel's annexation of the Golan. The Palestinians also claim some Jordan River water.

While not commenting on the specifics of the case, Dr. Amikam Nahmani, a water analyst at Bar-Ilan University said, "In general, there is serious difficulty in obtaining international funding for water projects unless there is the agreement of all having riparian rights. For example, Turkey did not receive funding from the World Bank for its Euphrates dam due to the opposition of the Iraqis and the Syrians."

Settlers enact 'return of Palestinians'

Settlers enact 'return of Palestinians'

HERB KEINON

WOMEN in traditional Arab dress got off a plane at Jerusalem's Atarot airport yesterday and praised Allah for allowing them to "return to Palestine." Their husbands sang a cheer to Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin. Their children kissed the ground.

The occasion was a dramatization of The Return of the Palestinian Refugees, produced by Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. It was timed to coincide with yesterday's four-nation conference in Amman dealing with the future of Palestinians uprooted by the Six Day War.

"We want to dramatize to the country what it means that Peres is willing to bring thousands of Palestinians into the country," Domb said, explaining why his organization put out "less than NIS 7,500" to charter two flights from Sde Dov in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "The cost is less than what it would cost to take out a half-page advertisement in one of the afternoon newspapers, and this is more effective."

The group of some 30 settlers from Karmel Shomron, dressed in Arab costume, landed at the airport and then went by bus - Palestinian flags and pennants flying from the windows - to the Jerusalem District Labor Court where they "claimed" the building.

The settlers/refugees waved to the passing Palestinians in cars and cried out slogans. Some Palestinians waved back, but most ignored them. At one point, a policeman turned to another and asked earnestly, "Are they Jews or Arabs?"

KILLED

(Continued from Page 1)
old Haifa woman was killed after being hit by a taxi while she was crossing the road in city's central Carmel district. The driver was detained for questioning.

Later, a motorcyclist was killed when he apparently lost control of his bike and it crashed headlong into an oncoming army truck. The motorcyclist, a soldier aged 20 and a resident of Haifa, was apparently crushed to death under the wheels of the truck.

High-tech safety system announced, Page 3

Palestinian population close to 2 million

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Palestinian population in Gaza, Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem was 1,993 million at the end of 1993, a 3.7 percent increase over the previous year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The bureau's figures disagree with a survey ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the end of last year, which estimated the Palestinian population to be 2.4 million. At the end of 1993, the Palestinian population of Judea and Samaria was estimated at 1,084 million, Gaza 748,000, and Jerusalem 1,607,000. In the previous year, the number of Palestinians in Judea and Samaria was 1,051 million, Gaza 716,000, and Jerusalem 1,553,000.

According to Palestinian statistics bureau estimates, the Palestinian population reached 2,019 million at the end of 1992, or 5.5% more than the Central Bureau of Statistics' figures. The Palestinians estimated the population of Judea and Samaria, including east Jerusalem, at 1,272 million and that of Gaza at 747,000.

Satmar in New York protest Jaffa dig

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

SOME 200 police officers converged on Second Avenue in front of the Israeli Consulate yesterday afternoon in anticipation of a massive Satmar community demonstration to protest the construction work in Jaffa on what has been claimed is the site of an ancient cemetery.

The Central Rabbinical Congress, the Satmar hassidic organization that orchestrated the demonstration, said it was expecting thousands of demonstrators at the height of rush hour.

When it applied for a permit for the site, the congress said it anticipated 8,000 protesters, according to a police officer at the local precinct. While protesters were assembling at the consulate, some 71 mourners, representing the Sanhedrin, were making their way across town. They carried nine empty coffins and wore sackcloth to "voice their grief at the ongoing desecration of this cemetery," according to the Satmar Central Rabbinical Congress.

SOLDIER

(Continued from Page 1)
mother was in another room at the time.

"All of a sudden we heard shots," a neighbor said. "Then I heard screams, and rushed outside and saw Shai's mother sitting on the doorstep, crying hysterically."

She begged the neighbor to go into the house to find out what had happened. Other neighbors also rushed over, but no one wanted to go into the house, the neighbor related.

"But she begged me, so I went in and saw the girl lying on the floor, blood covering her neck," she said. "The boy who shot her

was sitting in a pool of blood. We called the police and Magen David Adom, who arrived within minutes."

Police, describing the incident as "a tragic case of unrequited love," did not remove items from the house for examination, saying it was a "closed case."

By last night, police had not summoned family members for questioning, preferring to wait until today because of "the sensitivity of the case."

Neighbors described Maimon as a "quiet man," and could not recall that he had been violent in the past.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today, 1 p.m., at the YMCA, King David Street. Daniel Lew, honorary consul of Papua, will address the club.

Winning numbers & cards

In last night's weekly Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 1, 11, 15, 20, 26, 38 and the additional number was 27.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, ace of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

Sneh: Iran trying to buy Sh'ite support

DAVID RUDGE

IRAN is spending around \$100 million a year in an effort to "buy" the hearts and minds of Lebanese Shi'ites, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh declared yesterday during a visit to the security zone.

Sneh, a former commander of the IDF's Lebanese liaison unit, stressed that Hizbullah is not acting in the interest of Lebanon, but on behalf of its patron Iran.

He maintained that Hizbullah was helping to "export" the Iranian revolution and spread terrorism as part of its attempt to turn "more and more countries into Islamic republics."

"The war against Hizbullah here [in the security zone] is part of our war against radical Islam. They don't intend to stop at Kileh, Marjayoun or Bint J'bal [in the zone]. They have said their target is Jerusalem, but the IDF is stopping them here," said Sneh.

He stressed, however, that the war with Hizbullah's Iranian-style terrorism was not only on the battlefield, but also in the field of humanitarian assistance to Lebanese residents.

"Hizbullah, financed by Iran, is investing sums reaching as much as \$100 million a year in Lebanon. They are trying to buy the hearts and stomachs of residents of the south," said Sneh.

Israel is doing as much as possible, in health, welfare, employment, roadworks and other fields to assist residents of the security zone. "This is our response [to Hizbullah] and if we can do more we will do so," said Sneh.

"It should be remembered that the war is not just military but also has another aspect, the civilian one," he said.

Sneh visited the Bint J'bal hospital in the western sector of the zone and IDF and SLA positions in the area before traveling to Marjayoun and inspecting the hospital there.

Last night, a South Lebanese Army soldier was moderately wounded in a clash with gunmen in the western sector of the security zone, according to reports from Lebanon.

The incident sparked heavy exchanges in the area with IDF and SLA gunners shelling suspected terrorist targets in the Majdal Zoun and Mansouria areas north of the zone.

Reports from Lebanon said Hizbullah gunmen fired a number of Katyusha rockets towards IDF and SLA positions in the zone with some, apparently, falling close to the border but not inside Israeli territory.

There were no reports of casualties from the rocket attacks.

According to reports, the clash itself occurred while SLA troops were on operational duties in the western sector of the zone and they encountered a terrorist squad in the area.

Meet the Author - Bob Rockaway

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DAVID RUDGE

مركز الامم المتحدة

Women celebrate learning to read

BATSHEVA TSUR

SOME 150 women, who only a few years ago were illiterate, yesterday showered Reuma Weizman with songs and poems they had composed and written to mark International Women's Day.

The guests at Beit Hanassi were participants in the special adult education program, Tehila - a Hebrew acronym which also means "glory" - under the aegis of the Education Ministry's adult education department. They represented the 8,000 Tehila students currently learning in 70 centers throughout the country.

Many of the women were moved to tears as they got up to tell their stories - stories of shame and despair at not being able to read and write, to help their children with their homework, to sign their names. Although the Tehila program, aimed at inculcating the students first with basic learning skills and eventually brings them up to the high school level, many of them have continued to study even further.

"A few years ago, I could only dream that I would one day know how to read," said Rachel, a mem-



Aliza Ovadia (left) presents a tapestry to Reuma Weizman during the Beit Hanassi celebrations yesterday for the Tehila women's education group. (Photo Noy)

ber of the group's choir. "Today I can also read notes and I'm studying art history. I have entered two new realms - those of art and music - worlds that would otherwise have been closed to me."

Weizman told the women that she had worked "many years ago" as a volunteer with Tehila in the Morasha neighborhood of Ramat Ha-

sharon. "The students were given a notebook and pencil - and the volunteers were also given them. In those days, it was a very special present," she recalled.

The artistic program was provided by members of the choir, conducted by Anat Knoll, a haredi volunteer from Bnei Brak, with a musical accompaniment from new

immigrant artists. The highlight was a "Peace Song" whose tune and lyrics were composed by Knoll, which soon had Weizman and the entire audience joining in.

"There are many moving events in this house," Weizman said in parting. "But there are few that have left so strong an impression on me as this gathering."

'Kach meeting in Knesset didn't violate rules'

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET SPEAKER Shevah Weiss condemned the fact that members of the outlawed Kach movement managed to hold a meeting in the Knesset Monday, but said initial investigations show that neither the MK Shaul Guttman (Mole-det), who invited them, nor Knesset staff had violated the House Rules or procedure.

"It's borderline, but we probably won't be able to do very much about it. According to the House Rules, we only have authority to refuse entrance to someone on security or criminal grounds," Weiss said. Apparently, the Kachniks names did not appear on the police list at the gate.

Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) filed a complaint with the attorney-general and said the Kach activists "had turned the Knesset into a laughing stock."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) filed a complaint with the Ethics Committee.

But House Committee chairman Hagai Merom (Labor) said that "there's no formal way of preventing racists like this from entering the

Knesset."

The Kach activists said the meeting was their third in the Knesset. Some 15 Kachniks attended.

Kach's Baruch Marzel told reporters in a phone interview that the group had met with several MKs. He implied that he knew some Knesset ushers from the four years he worked in the building with the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. He said the 15 were invited individually and not as a movement.

Guttman raged against the criticism on the subject, saying: "The government which shakes the hand of PLO murderers has no right to condemn me. How many people did Kach kill?"

The meeting was held as part of his parliamentary work, he said. They apparently discussed the subject of administrative detention for Jews and increased political activity among Israeli Arabs.

Guttman said he had received all the necessary permits, including police permits, to allow the Kachniks in. "I do not work in the underground. I won't hold meetings that I can't hold in the open."

'We were thumbing our nose at Rabin'

HERB KEINON

KACH spokesman Noam Federman said the meeting was nothing less than "a meeting of the Kach secretariat."

"Our offices have been closed," Federman said, "but we still need a place to meet. Sometimes it's at somebody's house, sometimes at a restaurant. This time we chose the Knesset."

The meeting took place in the Status of Women Committee room. Among the 15 Kachniks involved were Federman, former Kach head Baruch Marzel, and Benzion Gopstein, all of whom were placed in administrative detention shortly after the last year's Hebron massacre, when Kach and Kahane Hai were outlawed as terrorist organizations.

Federman would not say how he or the others got into the Knesset. The police have been searching for Federman for a couple of days to hand him an extension of the order limiting his movement, and Marzel has been ordered to stay in the Tel Rumeida neighborhood in Hebron.

Federman said that he did not have to hide his identity to make it into the Knesset, one of the country's most carefully guarded buildings.

"We are thumbing our nose at Rabin," Federman said. "He declared us equal to Hamas and Islamic Jihad. So this must be like Hamas or Islamic Jihad meeting in the Knesset."

New high-tech system will let police monitor every car on the road

BILL HUTMAN

BIG Brother is about to take the road in Israel.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal announced yesterday that a new high-tech safety system, that provides police with a constant watch on every vehicle on the road, will be installed on a major highway.

Shahal noted there is concern the system might violate privacy laws. However, he said, "it will be announced in advance on which highway the system will be installed, so anyone who does not want his whereabouts known can use another road."

Shahal said the Transport Ministry had agreed to purchase the system. He was unable, however, to say how much it would cost, or when it would be installed.

Police hope that once drivers realize they are being watched at all times, they will start obeying the traffic laws. The system, built in France, has been shown to cut down traffic fatalities by 50 percent, according to police.

The decision emerged from a Sunday night meeting at which Police and Transport ministry officials discussed improving road safety.

It was also decided that no more warnings would be given out to traffic code violators. Instead, all violators will receive fines or even more severe penalties.

"We are going to stop being forgiving," Shahal said.

Experts agree that drivers who fear receiving stiff penalties are the most likely to obey the law, he said.

Officials with the Transport Ministry's Road Safety Division blasted the Traffic Police for failing to do its job.

"It was a heated meeting," Shahal said, adding that he agreed with the negative assessment of the Traffic Police.

The two ministries also agreed to set up a watchdog committee of traffic experts, that will meet every month to review the work of the Traffic Police.

The committee is also to present detailed plans for improving road safety by April 1. It was also decided to immediately increase city traffic police squads by 300 policemen nationwide.

Bezek may offer service of spotting phone bugs

JUDY SIEGEL

HAVE you have thought your phone was being bugged?

Bezek and the Israel Police are looking into the possibility of opening a public service for disclosing illicit listening devices at the request of any subscriber.

Police Inspector-General Rav-Nitzav Assaf Hefetz proposed this to Bezek director-general Yitzhak Kaul in Jerusalem yesterday. He noted that the numerous public scandals involving wiretapping devices reflects the fact that they are being used more than before. Police sources said such a service would work to discourage bugging phone lines. Kaul sent the proposal to the communications and police ministers for comment.

Bezek is now investigating what would be required to supply such a service, including the charges (it would not be free).

Meanwhile, the public telecommunications company is also considering a change in the method of charging for beeper services. At present, beeper subscribers pay not only a monthly service charge, but a fee for "air time" according to how many calls they received. Bezek says the person who leaves the message should be charged instead of the holder of the beeper. The company has asked the Communications Ministry to approve the new system, which is called "Calling Party Pays."

Kaul told a forum of beeper companies that such a change would spur the widespread use of beepers. If the ministry approves, it will begin experimentally in mid-May.

Missing girl, 16, gone for a week

DAVID RUDGE

CONCERN is growing for the safety of a retarded Kiryat Yam teenager, who has been missing from her home for more than a week. Zahava Nimerovsky, 16, was last seen after finishing lessons at the special school in Haifa at which she studies. Eila Nimerovsky said her daughter had gone missing in the past, but had always been found by somebody and brought home.

The missing teenager is about 1.60 meters tall and has black curly hair. She was wearing round glasses with white frames, blue jeans, a light blue shirt, and a brown jacket at the time she disappeared.

Parents warned of Purim dangers

JUDY SIEGEL

PARENTS were urged yesterday to be wary of risky Purim toys because police and the ministries of Industry and Trade and Education said they could not catch all importers and retailers of illegal items.

At a press conference in Jerusalem, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Masha Lubelsky said "people without a conscience" smuggle in and sell dangerous toys at huge profits and are undeterred by fines of only NIS 6,000.

Lubelsky urged parents not to buy flammable costumes. But even those with Standards Institute approval may lose their protection against fire after the first wash.

Zion Shabbat of the Education Ministry said school principals and teachers have been briefed about the dangers of illegal Purim toys and costumes.

The Health Ministry has no statistics on how many children are brought to emergency rooms each

year as a result of such accidents. Typical injuries include burns from inflammable costumes set alight by cigarettes and sparks from pop guns; corneal damage due to illegal "snow" sprays; and hearing and sight damage from explosives.

Police Dep.-Cmdr. Menahem Hozana, who heads the explosives lab, showed a wide variety of explosive toys and weapons that were confiscated. They include rockets with a range of 200 meters, and firecrackers that set off 200 or more fireballs in seconds. Plastic toys that look like real weapons have also been banned because in today's situation, the sight of a gun can elicit shooting in self-defense, he said.

Even items not banned - such as cap pistols - can cause harm in unforeseen circumstances. Lubelsky described an incident in which a preschooler hid caps in his sock. He was kicked in the leg, the caps exploded and he suffered burns.

Ministers back competition for international phone service

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni last night voiced their commitment to opening international phone service to competition.

At the same time, they said

they would ensure that Bezek "remains a central factor in the field of telecommunications."

The ministers also called on Bezek workers to halt the sanctions they began a week ago to protest the move. Judy Siegel

NEWS IN BRIEF

New deputy head of GSS appointed

The newly appointed head of the General Security Service, "K," yesterday appointed "R." as his senior deputy. R. was until recently the GSS head of operations and has served the organization in various posts before that.

Gore to tour Middle East this month

US Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper will make a tour of the Middle East from March 19 to March 24, visiting Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, the vice president's press office has announced. A key objective of the trip is meet officials of each country to discuss economic cooperation and Middle East peace, US officials said. Reuter



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10 killed in Chechnya as refugee bus hits mine

GENEVA (Reuters) - Ten civilians were killed and five wounded on Monday when a bus evacuating people from the Chechen capital Grozny hit an anti-tank mine, a relief agency said yesterday.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that despite the incident, it would continue to bring out trapped civilians from the war-torn city.

In Moscow, Itar-Tass news agency quoted Russian military headquarters as putting the death toll in the blast at seven dead and 14 wounded. Interfax news agency quoted Colonel Vyacheslav Shumakov, commander of an interior ministry troops regiment, as saying nine people had been killed and 13 injured.

An IOM spokeswoman, speaking after further contacts with its team, told Reuters late yesterday: "The death toll has not changed. We are sticking with our numbers."

IOM has evacuated 2,008 people, including 316 children, from Grozny since launching its program on January 21.

"One of the two buses which evacuate people along Grozny's southern road hit a mine yesterday. Ten people died, including a

child and an IOM driver," the spokeswoman said.

The dead included an eight-year-old boy and his mother, as well as the local driver, according to the Geneva-based IOM. A total of eight women were among the dead.

"Among the five wounded, two are in a very critical condition..." IOM said in a later statement.

The bus, which had 47 passengers, was traveling along the Achoy-Martan road on the way to a former spa in Semovodsk, across the border in Ingushetia, which has been converted into an IOM reception center for evacuees.

Itar-Tass said the explosion took place east of the village of Samashki, on the Chechen side of the border.

A second bus stopped to collect the wounded and dead and bring them to Slepovskaya hospital in Semovodsk, IOM said. The second driver is seriously injured and has head injuries.

"We think it was an anti-tank mine because two normal cars went ahead first, but the bus is heavier and probably tripped it," the spokeswoman said.

The IOM, which arranges the

movement of refugees and migrants, is the only agency evacuating civilians from Chechnya, and has recently been moving about 100 a day.

On February 23, Russian authorities granted IOM access to the northern part of Grozny to facilitate evacuation. Evacuation via the north is deemed safer as there are fewer battles raging.

IOM vowed to continue the three-month, \$1.2 million program, which is funded by western donor nations.

"In view of the life-saving nature of these evacuations and the growing number of individual requests, the IOM staff will continue the evacuation," it said.

Russian forces, meanwhile, established a new position yesterday along a key highway in western Chechnya, part of a slow advance to gain control of the rebel republic's countryside.

Empty shell casings and a smashed roof testified to the short battle to take the position, a crossroads on the Rostov-to-Baku highway between Achkhoy Martan and Samashki. The rebel-held villages are 25 to 30 kilometers west of the capital, Grozny. A tank at the crossroads trained its cannon on Samashki.



Demonstrators in Taiwan take to the streets yesterday to demand equal rights for women on the eve of today's International Women's Day. They hold a rice bowl over a stick to indicate they want both marriage and work. (AP)

Moscow mayor, Yeltsin clash over Russian law and order

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The powerful mayor of Moscow warned President Boris Yeltsin yesterday that he would quit unless the Kremlin chief reinstated two top law enforcement officials, exposing a rift between the former allies.

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, once an influential backer of Yeltsin, called on him to rescind a decision to sack Moscow's prosecutor and police chief after the killing of a television celebrity.

If not, he said, he would go through with a threat to resign and challenge the legality of the decisions - in which prosecutor Gennady Ponomarev and police

chief Vladimir Pankratov were sacked - in the courts.

The sharp reaction of the high-profile, soccer-playing Luzhkov brought into the open the differences between him and his one-time mentor after weeks of press speculation.

Luzhkov effectively called on Yeltsin to reverse a process he started by publicly calling for the two men to be sacked after the March 1 mafia-style murder of television anchorman Vladimir Listyev.

Moscow police officials rallied behind Luzhkov. The city's municipal leaders issued a statement warning Yeltsin that Luzhkov's

departure from office would lead to "a destabilization of political, economic and social life in the city."

At first glance it seemed unlikely Yeltsin would be able to go back on his call, issued in an emotional address to a group of Listyev's television colleagues.

Oleg Lobov, secretary of Russia's Security Council, told journalists that all the members of the Council had backed the sackings at a meeting on Monday.

Lobov said Yeltsin would soon sign a decree to reinforce the battle against crime which would include measures to re-equip law enforcement groups.

New York governor signs death penalty bill

ALBANY, New York (Reuters) - New York yesterday became the 38th US state to restore the death penalty when Governor George Pataki, fulfilling a campaign promise, signed a bill restoring capital punishment in the state.

Civil liberties groups immediately vowed to challenge the law, which empowers New York to begin executions by lethal injection after September 1.

Republican Pataki reversed 18 years of vetoes by his two Democratic predecessors, Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo, by putting his name to the legislation.

"The citizens of New York state have spoken loudly and clearly in their calls for justice for those who commit the most serious crimes by depriving other citizens of their lives," Pataki said at the signing ceremony.

The last execution in New York was in August 1963, when

armed robber Eddie Lee Mays died in the electric chair.

Norman Siegel, president of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said human rights groups would fight the new law.

The death penalty is still banned in Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan.

The New York law provides for the death penalty for killers of police officers, prison guards, judges and witnesses. Serial killers, terrorists, and killers who torture victims could also face execution, as would those convicted of murder in the course of a rape, burglary, kidnapping or robbery, or during a prison escape.

Women cannot be put to death while pregnant and no one under the age of 18 can receive the death penalty.

'No threat from Iran missiles'

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Saudi Arabia is not concerned by Iran's reported deployment of anti-aircraft missiles at a strategic point in the Gulf, the defense minister, Prince Sultan, was quoted yesterday as saying.

"I think that there is no real escalation with respect to the missiles that Iran is said to have deployed on its shores," Sultan said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

The remarks were made Monday during a visit to the northwestern Saudi military base at Tabuk.

Washington last week reported an Iranian buildup of Hawk air defense missiles on islands in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway for a substantial share of the world's daily oil needs.

The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Shalikashvili, voiced concern about a possible threat from the missiles to shipping.

Despite the traditional Arab-Persian rivalry, Sultan asserted there is "no animosity" between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iran signs deal with US company to develop oil fields in Gulf

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

IRAN has signed a deal with a US oil company to develop offshore oil fields in the Persian Gulf. Tehran's first energy pact with an American concern since Washington cut relations in 1980.

Conoco, based in Houston, Texas, will develop two fields on Sirri Island, near the Strait of Hormuz and roughly equidistant between Iran and Dubai. In two years, the Sirri fields, which were discovered some 20 years ago, are expected to produce at least 120,000 barrels per day.

There was no indication of what proportion of Iran's output this would represent. The offshore production would boost Iran's overall output and reduce pressure on onshore fields.

Terms of the agreement between Conoco and Iran, OPEC's second biggest producer after Saudi Arabia, were not disclosed. However, analysts said the project could be worth more than \$1 billion. They also noted that this pact indicated Tehran's increasing willingness to enter into long-term arrangements with foreign concerns.

Conoco is a subsidiary of the US chemical giant E.I. du Pont & Co. In Houston, a Conoco spokesman said its new affiliate in the Netherlands, Conoco Iran N.V., would act as the contractor. In announcing the deal, Tehran's state-run press referred to Conoco as a "Dutch company."

The tension between Tehran and Washington was also reflected in the US, where administration sources told *The New York Times* that they would be examining the agreement to see if it violated American laws barring the transfer of technology that could be used by the Iranian military or restrictions on low-rate loans.

The offshore oil announcement comes only weeks after US Sen. Al D'Amato (R-New York) introduced a bill in Congress that would prohibit all economic transactions with Iran. American companies currently are permitted to buy oil from Iran, but they cannot resell it in the US.

'35% of Americans don't know about Hiroshima'

WASHINGTON - About one out of three Americans - 35 percent - in a recent Gallup survey for the cable television show *America's Talking* did not know that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and six out of 10 were unable to name the president who ordered the attack.

Slightly more than half - 52 percent - of those surveyed in the recent *Times Mirror* poll could identify Newt Gingrich as speaker of the House. But 64 percent could correctly identify Lance Ito as the judge in the O.J. Simpson trial.

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Detective in Simpson case: There are no other suspects

LOS ANGELES (AP) - One of the detectives in charge of the O.J. Simpson case testified he never considered the possibility that Ronald Goldman, not Simpson's ex-wife, was the primary target of their killer, or that someone other than Simpson committed the murders.

"I had absolutely no other evidence that would point me in any other direction," Detective Tom Lange said Monday under cross-examination.

Touching on a defense theory the murders could have been drug-related, Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. asked whether police investigated that angle. Lange said authorities looked "superficially" into drugs as a motive, but "in this particular case, we had another direction to go."

Cochran also asked if police looked into the background of Faye Resnick, who lived with Nicole Brown Simpson days before the murders and has admitted past drug problems.

The judge barred questions about Resnick's entry into a drug treatment center, where she was the night of the crime.

Lange said his partner, Detective Philip Vannatter, interviewed Resnick on tape. But Lange said he had never listened to the recording.

Lange retorted the stand after a 10-day interruption during which the jurors were left on hold at their hotel and housekeeper Rosa Lopez had her alibi testimony videotaped for possible use later in the trial.

Cochran took up where he left off, trying to elicit evidence of

shoddy police work and a "rush to judgment" that Simpson was the killer.

"Did you ever consider that Mr. Goldman may have been the target of the assassin or assassins that particular night? Did you ever consider that at all?" Cochran asked.

"The targets of an assassin?" Lange replied, incredulously.

Cochran then changed his wording to whether Goldman was "the target of ... the perpetrator or perpetrators" on June 12. Lange still seemed mystified.

"Did you ever - as the investigating officer in this case - ever consider any other theory than if O.J. Simpson was the only perpetrator in this case?" Cochran asked.

The detective said he had no evidence whatsoever that would point in any other direction.

Asked if he considered the possibility that Goldman had been followed to Ms. Simpson's condominium, Lange said, "I think it's entirely possible he was followed."

"Did you ever consider that something regarding him or his background may have led some person or persons to follow him there, to that location?" Cochran asked.

"I had no evidence at all to suggest that," Lange said.

"And so did you ever pursue that or look at it at all?"

"There was nothing to pursue."

Prosecutors have said that Simpson set out to kill his ex-wife and that Goldman happened upon the scene when he went there to return a pair of glasses.

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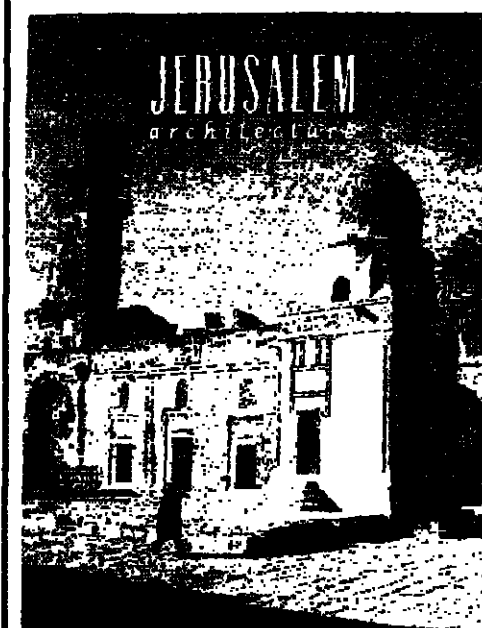
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In Algeria, death list tolls warning

JOHN BAGGALEY
NICOSIA

THE chilling statistics of slaughter released for the first time by Algeria's military authorities at the weekend — 6,388 civilians slain in one year — is only a bloody signal of worse to come, diplomats said this week.

The security forces, whose own death toll in the grim war against Muslim extremists is rigorously suppressed, issued the list without comment as Id al-Fitr ended.

"They are trying to get the people on their side and prepare them for more vicious attacks to come," said one Western diplomat who has closely followed the three-year-old Algerian conflict.

"For such figures, it was a very bland announcement. It will be interesting to see if they follow up in the next few days."

The death toll just of civilians, which another diplomat termed a "vast underestimate," showed that in 1994 more than 17 ordinary Algerians were killed every day.

No segment of Algeria's 26-million, largely poverty-stricken population was safe. The dead included 21 journalists, 682 civil servants, 101 teachers, 2,207 workers, and 1,384 of the unemployed who form more than one-fifth of those working age.

Seven top officials were also gunned down, along with 15 magistrates, 52 mosque preachers or imams, the leaders of two political parties, a singer and a regional wali, or governor.

"The security forces are losing," said another diplomat. "But maybe the authorities think that putting out the figures can show the danger facing ordinary people, and if they don't back the authorities it will be even worse."

Already this year, the toll has soared among civilians. Death has come suddenly, anywhere. Like last Friday when 15 men broke into a Palestinian student's

home east of Algiers, dragged him out and slit his throat, dumping his body 100 yards away.

Beheadings, shootings, bombings, torture and the slitting of throats, lie behind the unemotional figures cited by the security forces.

According to Western estimates late last year, at least 30,000 people have been killed since violence erupted after the authorities in January 1992 scrapped a general election that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

Many more have been killed this year, including at least 42 officially acknowledged dead in a January suicide bomb carried out in central Algiers by the feared Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

Another diplomat suggested that issuing the death toll could be aimed at easing foreign pressure on the authorities over a fundamentalist riot in Algiers. Serkadij prison near the casbah. Nearly 100 prisoners were slain when security forces moved in after four warders, held hostage, had their throats slit.

"They may also be doing it to try to swing the people behind President [Lamine] Zeroual's plan to hold presidential elections this year — effectively telling the people they have no choice, between that or continuing to be killed," he said.

Diplomats say that despite efforts by France, Germany and Belgium to crack down on arms supplies and a logistical network to the GIA and the other main armed group, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the groups seem to have no shortage of weapons. "There seems no immediate prospect of them lacking the means to continue their fight," said one diplomat recently. (Reuters)

Kaddoumi: Palestinians must say 'no'

THE head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said in an interview he is convinced the Israeli government does not want peace, and that the Palestinians must withdraw from the peace agreement.

He said the aim of the Israelis in the Oslo accords was to drag the Palestinians into geographical concessions.

Palestinians, he said, should seriously consider making the decision to completely annul the agreements.

Kaddoumi made it clear that the meetings of the PLO executive committee in Cairo were to prepare for even more important and critical meetings, where such decisions will be made.

He added: "The Palestinians should prepare for the next stage in the struggle and intifada."

Kaddoumi said he did not attend the executive committee meeting because he was briefing influential international and regional parties on the current status of the peace process. (Elsuruk (Tunisia), February 22.)

PALESTINIAN CORRUPTION?

Palestinian sources say a number of ministers in the Palestinian Authority have expressed dissatisfaction with the number of posts and responsibilities Yasser Arafat has given Dr. Nabil Shaath.

They say the ministers ask, "What is Shaath's true job? Is he the foreign minister, chief adviser to Arafat, minister of planning, or minister of economics?"

Yet Arafat ignores their dissatisfaction and says: "All the spe-

cial demands of Shaath will be met."

Palestinian sources also say that Arafat's appointment of Sami Samara as managing director of the Palestinian Broadcast Authority in Gaza has drawn many negative reactions.

Samara was kidnapped by the special security forces several months ago from the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem. The reported reason was an accusation of "immoral activity" in Jerusalem. The story of the kidnapping raised a number of unanswered questions.

(Tishrin (Syrian government), February 21.)

'WAR IS NEARER'

The following are excerpts from a commentary in the Syrian government paper *Tishrin*, signed by the editor, Mohammed Heir Elwadi, and titled "The Lost Effort":

A year-and-a-half since the signing of the Oslo agreements, it is clear to all that they did not bring peace. [On the contrary,] the agreements were a step backward. Tension has risen and the danger of military confrontation and war has increased.

The Oslo deal did not advance negotiations on other tracks, but instead froze them and created new problems.

The Oslo agreements have ensnared Yitzhak Rabin himself, and caused him great damage. Even the Israeli press has pointed out that his popularity is plummeting, and he is unable to keep his promise to provide security to the Israelis.



Rabin carries out policies which are full of contradictions. Sometimes he supports the Oslo agreements and sometimes he distances himself from them.

This policy has resulted in Rabin sabotaging peace at every opportunity, despite being elected on the hopes that he would bring peace. It is better to invest resources in building a peace that can give security, stability and prosperity for all.

Then there will not be a false peace, which preserves aggression and oppression.

(Tishrin, February 21.)

SYRIA IRRITATES JORDAN

Declarations attributed to the vice president of Syria, Abdel-Halim Khaddam, regarding Jordan's stance on the peace process, have drawn sharp responses from senior Jordanian state officials.

They accuse Khaddam of attempting to interfere in the internal affairs of Jordan, of worsening relations between the two countries, and of stepping outside the conventions of relations between Arab states.

Reliable sources in Amman say Khaddam made his comments during a visit in January to

the secretaries-general of Jordanian opposition parties.

The sources said Khaddam spoke of the legal institutions of Jordan in a demeaning way — a stand unfit for Syria and standing in complete opposition to Syria's own call to clear the air in the Arab world and to close ranks in facing common challenges. (Elhayas (London), February 21.)

ARAB NUCLEAR UMBRELLA

With the approaching expiration date of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (in June) several Arab nations who are signatories to it, headed by Egypt, have started to be concerned by the expansion of the Zionist nuclear program despite the talk about "an atmosphere of peace advancing in the region."

These states are making efforts to establish a front of Third World nations to pressure the Zionist entity to sign the new Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — with emphasis of the principle of joint signing, and the connection between these states signing and the signature of the Zionist entity.

The question raised is whether, as a result of these efforts, the Zionist entity can be forced to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to control its nuclear program, and open its nuclear facilities to inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As an answer to these questions, we tend to say these efforts will yield nothing. The Zionists, with the help of the United States, will find a way to crack the front and bring it down.

Even if the Arabs use pressure and refuse to renew their own signatures on the treaty, this will not stop the threatening Zionist nuclear program from continuing and developing.

There are rumors that the United States and Europe are considering declaring Israel a "nuclear state" as a given fact. Then the pressure will switch towards getting this fact recognized in the Arab world.

This is not possible, because it would mean giving official recognition to the placing of "David's nuclear sword" on the throat of the Arabs' future.

This will make it possible for [Israelis] to destroy and slaughter in war and to practice extortion during cease-fires or negotiations — even during times of what appear to be peace agreements.

The strategic view of Arab decision-makers must be geared towards struggle against the Zionist nuclear plan on two tracks:

- Formulating a complete Arab nuclear program and developing it so that it can provide as quickly as possible an Arab nuclear umbrella to repel the Zionist nuclear threat.

- Action to halt the Zionist nuclear program via all diplomatic means.

The military means now in Arab hands do not make an overwhelming attack against the Zionist nuclear program possible, since it is protected by the Western powers.

But the Arabs will not lack the necessary means to repel the threat which hovers over them. (Alba'ath, Syria, February 21.)

Amman paper prosecuted for insult to Gulf leader

AMMAN (AP) — A weekly newspaper is being prosecuted in Amman for publishing a riddle considered offensive to the leader of the United Arab Emirates.

Mohammed Amin, head of the Information Ministry's press department, said the *Al-Majd* weekly violated a law that forbids "insulting heads of state of Arab and Moslem countries."

Amin said charges were filed against the weekly under the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

The riddle, printed last month, asked readers to identify an imaginary animal "with one eye and one ear, a horn ... lives in the wilderness, eats honey ... and stings like a bee."

It added that the creature "is homosexual, hates women, [and] is shortsighted."

Al-Majd printed the riddle under a headline identifying the author as Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, president of the UAE.

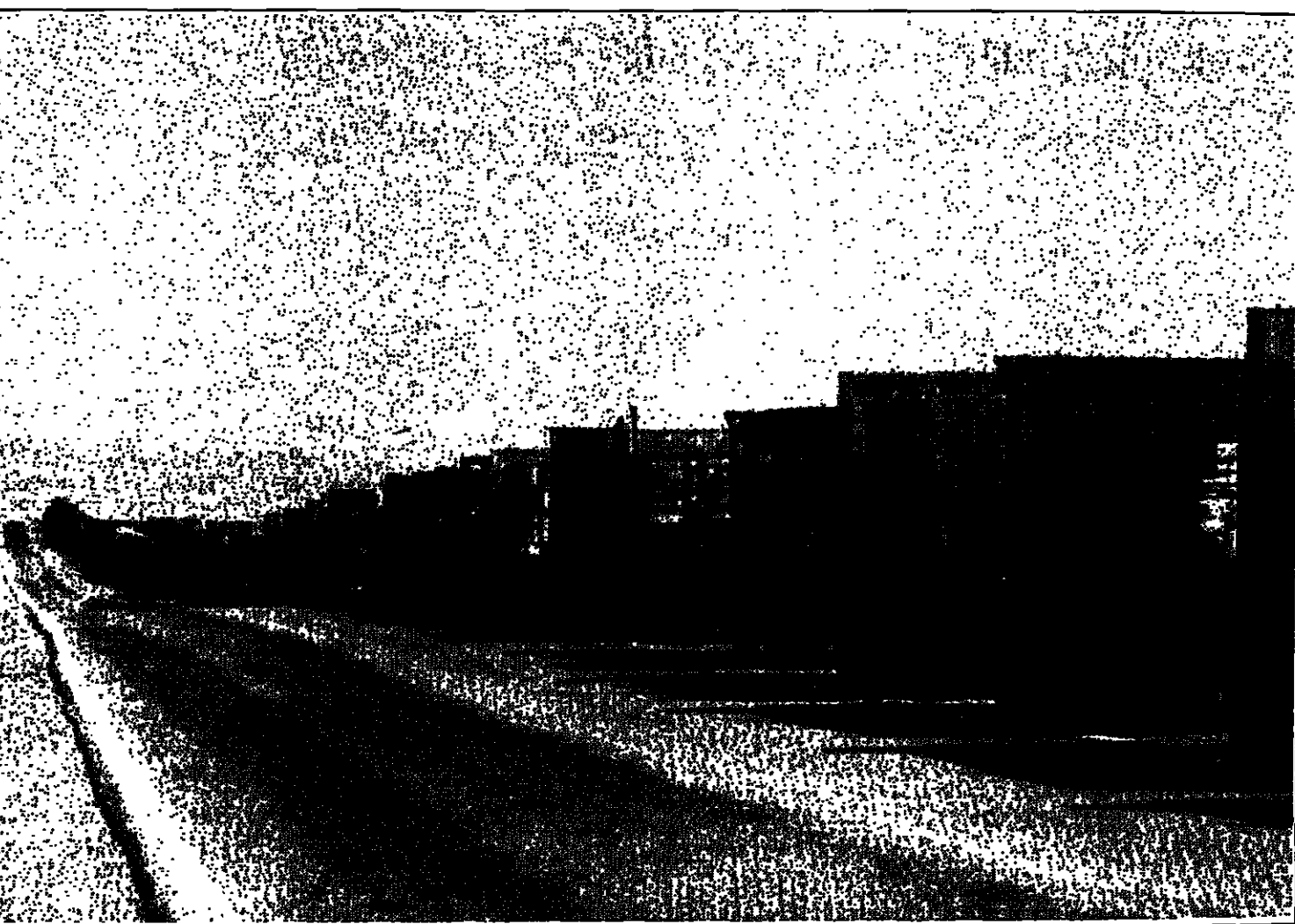
However, an accompanying text said only that the riddle "seems to be the work of Sheikh Zayed." It said the puzzle was distributed by "his enemies."

The weekly said readers should send answers to the royal palace in the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, to qualify for a prize of one million dirhams (about NIS 825,000).

Fahd Rimawi, owner and editor-in-chief of the leftist weekly, said he was convinced Zayed was the author of the riddle, which had been faxed to the weekly from a telephone number in Abu Dhabi.

Although Rimawi said he "did not mean to insult the UAE president," he added that he was "rather surprised" that Sheikh Zayed would spend time on such a riddle.

The legal action comes amid Jordanian efforts to heal its diplomatic rift with Gulf states over the 1991 war with Iraq.



Turkish trucks line up at the Habur border post to cross into Iraq to allegedly buy cheap oil in defiance of UN sanctions. (AP)

US to block lifting sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS — The United States has won enough votes on the UN Security Council to block an effort by Russia and France to lift the oil embargo against Iraq, US officials said this week.

After a whirlwind, eight-day tour of countries that currently sit on the 15-nation council, US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said she had secured pledges from nine other nations to vote down any resolution in coming months to suspend the economic sanctions against Baghdad. Resolutions require at least nine votes to pass.

"As a result of this trip, I believe we have sufficient support — even a majority — to prevent any premature lifting of the embargo," Albright said in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

France and Russia favor a narrow legal reading of the Security Council resolutions that settled the 1991 Gulf War and argue that the United Nations must begin easing the sanctions as soon as Baghdad fully complies with a UN program to dismantle and destroy its most lethal weapons. The two countries, which have important economic interests in Iraq, appeared ready to push to begin rolling back the sanctions by April.

The administration sent Albright on the trip with the hope of avoiding a damaging frontal confrontation over Iraq with two allies, by showing them they do not have majority backing on the council and persuading them to hold off on the sanctions issue. Albright warned she would cast a veto if necessary to prevent any suspension of the sanctions, which include the embargo on oil exports that has crippled Iraq's economy. Albright spoke on the tele-

phone with the foreign ministers of Botswana and Rwanda and President Carlos Menem of Argentina. She met with Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Czech President Vaclav Havel. She won the backing of these nations and also of Oman and Honduras, US officials said. Britain has long supported the US view.

At each stop a CIA official traveling with Albright presented a slide show to convince foreign officials that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is secretly rebuilding industrial facilities that could be used to manufacture chemical weapons and missiles, even though the chairman of the UN special weapons program, Rolf Ekens, has reported that Iraq's most dangerous weapons have been neutralized.

The slides provided evidence that the Iraqi military forces used missiles and armored vehicles stolen from Kuwait in an offensive late last year towards the border with Kuwait. They also showed lavish palaces and government retreats Saddam is said to have built in recent years, despite the hardships caused by the sanctions. Albright claimed the Iraqi government has rebuilt 17 palaces and raised 48 new ones in the past two years.

"A number of the leaders remarked that his palaces looked quite a bit bigger than theirs," a US official said.

Albright was carrying "very, very tough" letters from President Clinton to the leaders of the Security Council nations, said James P. Rubin, Albright's spokesman. Clinton noted that the US bore the brunt of the Gulf War and the military operations last November to deter Saddam from a new charge into Kuwait,

and "would not understand" any country that crossed the US position on the sanctions.

The US maintains that none of the sanctions should be lifted until Baghdad has complied over a long period with all the resolutions that apply to Iraq — not just the one that governs the weapons of mass destruction. Washington is demanding that Iraq formally renounce international terrorism, return all Kuwaiti war prisoners and equipment stolen during the Gulf conflict, and respect the rights of minority Kurdish and Shi'ite Moslem populations.

France and Russia, with the quiet support of China, argue that if the Security Council does not show some recognition of the progress Iraq has made in de-

stroying weapons and recognizing the sovereignty of Kuwait, it will encourage Saddam to end all cooperation with the UN.

The US sought to counter criticism that the sanctions are punishing Iraqi civilians by offering to soften the terms by which Iraq could sell some of its petroleum under UN supervision to purchase food and other humanitarian supplies, US officials said.

Albright said the US would allow Baghdad to sell more than the \$1.6 billion worth of oil specified in a UN resolution, but she did not say exactly how much.

She also said the US would agree to revise the terms of the UN monitoring of the sales to make it less intrusive. (Washington Post)

UN: Iran still using torture to enforce Islam

CLARE NULLIS
GENEVA

IRAN continues to rely heavily on a mix of executions, torture, repression and religious persecution to enforce obedience to its Islamic revolutionary ideals, the most recent UN report says.

In his report to the UN Commission on Human Rights last week, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl said 63 executions were reported in the press last year, many allegedly for violent crimes. The vast majority of executions went undocumented after international criticism of the high number of cases, he said.

He criticized authorities for extending the death penalty to include price speculation and racketeering.

The Salvadoran jurist voiced particular concern at the incidence of whippings and amputations and the increase in the number of public hangings and deaths by stoning.

Galindo Pohl cited the case of a German national, Helmut Szinkus, imprisoned for five years for spying for Iraq. After his release, Szinkus said he agreed to the charges after being repeatedly beaten.

He said he heard constant screams from other inmates being tortured. The Iranian government accused Szinkus of lying about his treatment.

Iran has barred Galindo Pohl from entering the country, saying previous reports were biased and wrong.

The 29-page report will be considered by the 53-nation human rights commission this month in a procedure reserved for serious violations.

Galindo Pohl said there is gross

prison overcrowding. One former convict described prison units for 150 people containing 700 to 1,000, with many forced to sleep in toilets. Hygiene was appalling and disease rife, with little medical treatment.

The government says the prison population is 100,000, half sentenced for drug-related crimes.

Galindo Pohl said the 73-year-old former chief of military police, Azizollah Amir-Rahimi, was arrested last November after writing an open letter to President Hashemi Rafsanjani to press for more democratic reforms.

"No writer would be able to describe the endurance of political prisoners in Iran; nor the flagrant abuses by the revolutionary tribunals against the dignity and honor of the people, nor the suffering of the Iranian population as a result of systematic oppression," wrote Amir-Rahimi in his letter.

Amir-Rahimi's son was taken into custody after appealing against the arrest.

In an effort to uphold Iranian cultural and religious traditions, authorities had outlawed clothes with "improper" designs or Roman lettering, and all satellite television equipment.

Persecution against religious minorities like the Baha'is continued unabated, said Galindo Pohl.

He indicated that authorities were implicated in last year's murder of three prominent Protestant church leaders and said the case against the official suspect was riddled with inconsistencies. (AP)

US lends Jordan \$15 million

AMMAN (AP) — The US and Jordan this week signed an agreement under which Washington will lend Amman \$15 million to finance a purchase of wheat and corn from US sources.

The US Embassy said the agreement was signed by Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh and US Ambassador Wesley W. Egan.

The credit will be used to buy 60,000 tons of wheat and 45,000 tons of corn, the statement said. The loan, which carries 2 percent interest for the first seven years and 3% thereafter, will be repaid in 24 annual installments beginning in 2002.

On the investment front, nearly 4,500 companies with a capital of \$580 million were launched in Jordan during 1994, the Ministry of Industry and Trade says.

The figures represented an increase of \$235 million in fresh investments when compared with statistics for 1993. That year 4,409 companies were registered with a capital of \$344 million.

Jordan is hoping for hundreds of millions of dollars in local and foreign investments in a new era of regional security.

The kingdom is introducing incentives for foreign capital through amending legislation on investments and cutting down on bureaucracy.

A five-year development plan launched in 1993 offers the private sector investment opportunities of \$5 billion in specific projects in various sectors supported by \$2 billion in government spending to expand infrastructure.

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The PA in Jerusalem

It may seem like distant history now, but it was only months ago that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed that if Orient House served as the Palestinian foreign ministry, the whole agreement with the PLO would be voided. Confronted with European ministerial visits to Orient House after having issued this threat, he said he needed legislation before he could take punitive measures against this Palestinian government building masquerading as a cultural center. The legislation is now in place and yet Orient House is still serving as the Palestinian foreign ministry.

In fact, the Palestinians are gradually dropping all pretense of running anything but a government office at Orient House. In the Palestinian Authority's publications and newspapers Faisal Hussein is openly listed as a PA minister. Foreign officials meeting him at Orient House can no longer pretend they are merely paying respects to the former head of the Palestinian negotiations team.

And while it is true that since Yasser Arafat moved to Gaza the majority of diplomatic meetings take place in the Strip, the fact is that foreign dignitaries still consider an official visit to Orient House obligatory. As if to show on whose side they are in the dispute over Jerusalem, they meet Hussein in the heart of the city, under the PA flag, accompanied by Palestinian security men, with any Israeli presence pointedly excluded. If British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg has his way, he will also pay such a visit to Orient House, thus placing a cloud of nasty controversy over Prime Minister John Major's visit next week.

Nor is Orient House the only PA office in Jerusalem. In a report on PA institutions in

Jerusalem, Peace Watch - a non-partisan organization whose findings have proved impeccably accurate - asserts that "seven institutions in Jerusalem are connected beyond any doubt to the Palestinian Authority, and an additional two institutions are linked to the PA, though the extent of the connection is not entirely clear."

These institutions include the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation and the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs, as well as Health, Housing and Energy offices. In short, virtually a whole government structure is being erected in the city. That this structure is under the direct authority of the PA is beyond doubt.

Nor is there doubt that this is a violation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements. In fact, it is also in contravention of Israel's agreement with Jordan. As Peace Watch points out, the man appointed by the PA to be in charge of Jerusalem's Moslem affairs is Hassan Tahboub, whose title is Minister of the Waqf and Religious Affairs, Chairman of the Higher Islamic Council, State of Palestine, Jerusalem. Little room is left for Jordanian custody of the Moslem holy places in the city.

Aside from half-hearted protests, the government has done nothing to remove these institutions. Perhaps it is impressed by Hussein's threats that any such attempt would end the peace process not only with the Palestinians but the whole Arab world. And perhaps the government believes that once negotiations over Jerusalem begin, these matters will be ironed out. But if there is one thing the Palestinians have learned, it is that "facts on the ground" make agreements and treaties pale into insignificance.

Lahad and the Communists

LIKE all patriots, South Lebanon Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad resents the presence of foreign armies on his country's soil. He does not want the Syrian army in Lebanon, and he does not like Israel's presence there either. And although on his Jerusalem visit on Monday he did not mention Syria's proxy army, the Iranian-financed Hizbullah, it is a safe bet that he would like to see this terrorist organization out of his country too.

What Lahad knows is that the Syrians are in Lebanon because they are invaders who want to annex the country. Totally disregarding the Taif agreement, they are entrenching themselves with ruthless persistence and cunning, turning Lebanon into a district of "Greater Syria." He knows, too, that Israel has no interest in staying in Lebanon. If the Israeli army is there, it is because Syria's war of attrition against Israel, waged through the Hizbullah and the Palestinian terrorist movements, threatens Israel's northern borders.

If Lahad has chosen to ally himself with Israel, it is because he knows that Israel will not stay in Lebanon a minute longer than necessary, and because Israel does not act in South Lebanon as an occupier but as an ally. It has brought a semblance of democracy to the area, provided work for its inhabitants and enabled them, Shiite and Christian alike, to resist totalitarian Syrian occupation. That the SLA has proved a worthy and brave ally is a tribute to both the people of South Lebanon and Israel.

On Monday, invited by Jerusalem council

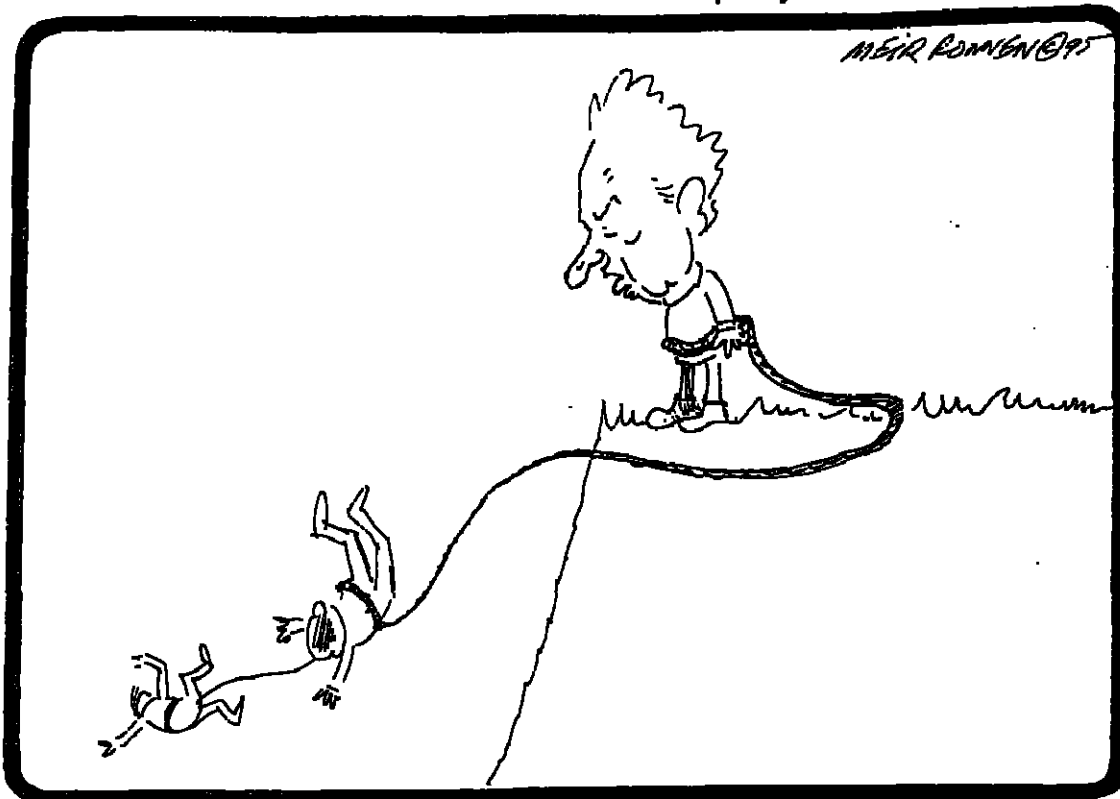
member Yehoram Gaon, Lahad came to visit the Knesset. Expecting to witness "democracy at work," he was greeted with abusive epithets shouted by Communist member Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) and members of the Arab parties. They called this ally of democratic Israel in its war against the totalitarian and murderous Syrian regime "a traitor to his people," "a mercenary" and "a member of the foreign legion."

This is not the first time Communists and their cohorts debase and reverse language for their purposes. It is an old Bolshevik tradition, going back to Lenin and Stalin, which inspired Orwell's classic 1984. What is surprising is that Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss failed to see the insult to Israeli democracy in this abuse, and let it pass without comment.

Even more astonishing is that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin permits his government to rely on Gozansky and her soul mates to keep alive his agreement with the PLO and to back his policy of concessions to Syria.

It would understate the case to say that the first loyalty of these Knesset members is not to Israel. They fully favor the Syrian and Palestinian cause over Israel's. Nor are their proclivities puzzling: they obviously so miss the days when the USSR was their inspiration that they need to attach themselves to regimes which most resemble Stalin's. But that Rabin has enabled them to effectively determine the nation's fate is the most damning thing one can say about his government.

The Histadrut and the party



Memo to Christopher

WARREN Christopher, who arrives in the Middle East today, deserves to be doubly congratulated - both on his speedy recovery from illness and on his dedicated efforts to dispel Israeli-Arab tensions.

The US secretary of state isn't under any illusion that he can wave a magic wand and effect an immediate Israel-Syria breakthrough. But he has persisted with talks between Jerusalem and Damascus where another foreign minister would surely have given up in despair long ago.

Here are a few things the secretary might care to know while shuttling between the region's capital cities:

● In Israel: Rabin wasn't too pleased about the White House's publicizing his talk with President Clinton on canceling Jordan's debt. Israel has no wish to get involved in the budget debate between the president and Congress.

The chief lesson Christopher might learn while in Jerusalem is that Israelis haven't yet understood the far-reaching implications of the fall of the dollar, and are still dreaming of extensive US support for their plans to raise living standards in the "territories," as if America's resources were unlimited.

Israelis haven't yet grasped the fact that absorbing a small percentage of the refugees from 1967 will mean more jobs and more homes, swallowing up the funds contributed by the international community for saving the inhabitants of Gaza and Jericho from famine and poverty.

Possibly the crises in the Stock Exchange and the Histadrut, which have hit the Israeli elite, haven't left the government with much time to reassess the situation in light of America's economic problems. It is unlikely that it will find time just now for

MOSHE ZAK

revolutionary decisions in the peace process, barring perhaps some dramatic step aimed at diverting attention from domestic disputes.

IN EGYPT: President Mubarak would like to see an end to Israel's special status vis-a-vis the US, and his tenacity on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty issue is one expression of this desire. Egypt is dismayed by Israeli slo-

All eyes in the region are on the dollar. The US should do nothing dramatic until it recovers

gans like "A New Middle East," "the Mideast Market" and "regional development plans" seeing them as part of an Israeli plot to use superior military and economic strength to gain control of the region.

The US is interested in bolstering the regime in Egypt, which is fighting fanatical Moslem extremism; but Egypt's arms race and concurrent harsh criticism of Israel have created a dynamic of hostility which may well spiral out of control.

● In Syria: President Assad, aware that America's economic straits have put paid to his expectations of extensive US support such as Egypt enjoys, is in no hurry to sign a peace treaty with Israel. He wants the US to hand him both the Golan and Lebanon without his needing to accept the concept formulated by the US at Madrid: that peace entails compromise.

Assad isn't ready to compromise with Israel. He won't settle

for a withdrawal to the international border. What he wants is a withdrawal to the pre-1967 armistice lines - in other words, legitimization of Syria's conquests in 1948.

● In Jordan: King Hussein is implementing the peace treaty speedily and sincerely. In the few months since the signing, there have been dozens of agreements in areas like air travel, border security, health, water, tourism, and agricultural cooperation.

The king has been relying on promises of economic support which he received in Washington and Jerusalem, and Israel has reassured him that Jordan's debt to the US will be canceled. He hasn't given up hope of this, and is still expecting Israel to hold back Palestinian pressure on him regarding the issue of Jordan's status in Jerusalem.

● In Gaza: Arafat has been weakened. His coffers are empty, and the Israelis are trying to save him. In spite of this, he persists in provoking Israel over Jerusalem by attempting to rally the Palestinian masses with the slogan of flying the Palestinian flag there.

In sum, the players in the region have been eyeing the dollar, seeing every bit of progress in the peace process as dependent on extensive US financial aid to solve thorny problems.

The dollar's low ebb, added to the obstacles in the path of Congressional approval for covering the needs of every Israeli-Arab agreement, will lead to disappointment for many in the region.

The US would thus be well advised not to rush into anything dramatic, but proceed with a moderate exchange of views until it can offer cash for peace in addition to the old "land-for-peace" formula.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on public affairs.

A profusion of parties

BY all indications, the next Knesset will be the most fragmented the country has ever had.

It isn't so much the small two-member factions that will increase (the possibility of one-seaters was eliminated when the threshold was raised from 1 percent to 1.5 percent), but the middle-sized Shas, Meretz, and Tsomet-type parties.

Less than 18 months from the final filing date for next year's elections, the following political developments stand a good chance of coming to fruition:

● The Islamic Movement, which has replaced Rakah as the most dynamic movement in the Arab sector, is on the verge of deciding to run at the center of an Arab bloc. If such a bloc is formed and can both increase Arab voter turnout and largely overcome the traditional fragmentation of the Arab vote, it could capture six to 12 seats.

● Shas has certainly become more entrenched, but it faces a potential major challenge from a competing Sephardi haredi party headed by former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu and breakaway Shas MK Yosef Azran. This new party could well win more votes than Shas by appealing to the strong hawkish sentiment among its voters, who have had a hard time going along with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's basic support for the dovish policies of the Rabin government.

● It looks as if there will be a concerted effort to run a serious and well-funded Russian immigrants' party. In the last election,

programmatic movements.

If the sheer drive for power and influence and the maximization of the division of the spoils is now the name of the political game, then others have learned the lesson taught by Shas: that running separately and playing both sides of the political fence pays off the most.

The proliferation of these parties will come at the expense of Labor and the Likud, whose total strength may well be cut down appreciably.

Given this growing fragmentation of the political system, the advent of a directly elected prime minister seems to be coming in the nick of time. It will provide a countervailing force to pull the system together and make it work.

The (theoretically) more powerful prime minister will undoubtedly have a much more difficult life having to patch together ad-hoc majorities in support of different policies and legislation.

But not everything will be for the worse. The need for such ad-hoc majorities will become the major check on any monopolization of inordinate power by the prime minister.

A Knesset with four or five Shases will also create a much healthier balance of power between different segments of the population. This is eminently more desirable than the present situation, in which Shas alone constitutes the political fulcrum.

THE EMERGENCE of such narrow-interest parties is a direct result of the collapse of the two major parties as ideological-

neither of the three small Russian parties made it over the threshold. Russian voters gave Labor an estimated four Knesset seats, enabling Yitzhak Rabin to squeeze through to the premiership with a one-seat blocking majority. The Russians weren't so much voting for Labor as protesting against the Likud government, which they blamed for their absorption failures.

This time around, the even larger Russian electorate seems to be

The next Knesset will likely be the most fragmented ever

as turned off by Labor, which it believes has sold it out, as it was by the Likud. The most appealing solution for many Russian voters is to run a party of their own. Since Russian immigrants will constitute 13 to 14 percent of the electorate, such a party could certainly end up in the Meretz-Tsomet middle-size league.

It is not impossible that Haim Ramon may run a separate list as an alternative to returning to Labor. And a significant part of the Likud could split away to form its own party behind David Levy.

The EMERGENCE of such narrow-interest parties is a direct result of the collapse of the two major parties as ideological-

The writer comments on public affairs.

Studs and sluts

JUDY MANN

WHAT happens to girls in schools, in their homes, and in the culture at large will never change until there is a change in the way boys are raised. We need to break boys' false sense of entitlement, at the expense of girls, and the equally destructive cycle in which girls are raised to be "nice," submissive and deferential.

This cycle of entitlement and submission plays a powerful role in a range of problems plaguing American society, including teenage violence, teenage pregnancy, wife battering and sexual harassment.

The irony for conservatives who have fought a rearguard action for 20 years against women's rights is that the surest way out of the welfare state they rail against is to raise girls with the same range of opportunities and possibilities that boys have. This is the best inoculator against teenage pregnancy that we know of, the best vaccine against welfare dependency.

Teenagers are not all sex-crazed. In fact, it's more likely that the culture is sex-crazed; and teenagers are trying to resist it.

Almost universally, they tell researchers they wish they had waited until they were older to have sex. In one study, nearly a quarter of teenagers - boys as well as girls - said they believed in abstinence before marriage.

But the emphasis we place on feelings in girls, on their interpersonal skills and on their ability to care for others is precisely what sets them up to succumb to sexual overtures by boys. They usually regret it later.

Proof of this is found in a study by Marion Howard and Judith McCabe, who asked more than 1,000 sexually active girls aged 16 or younger what topic they most wanted more information about.

Abortion? Masturbation? AIDS prevention? None of the above. A whopping 84 percent of the girls checked this item: "How to say no without hurting the other person's feelings."

Parents can help their daughters through the messages they give about what they value in their families. If we stress the importance of boys and being popular, that tells our daughters that we value the social agenda. If we praise our daughters' school efforts, instead, that helps establish a different priority.

Parents can also help by coaching their daughters to set boundaries. This means giving girls the sense they are entitled to question boys' behavior and to say things such as, "Why do you think it's all right to do that?" Or, "How do you think that makes me feel when you do (say) that?"

Raising boys to feel entitled and girls to be submissive isn't good for either

Or, "No, stop, it's not all right."

The goal is nothing short of changing the image in boys' minds of what is appropriate behavior toward girls and women, and making them more reflective about their own sexual desires. This is where mothers, who can remember very well what it is like to be a teenage girl, can make an important contribution by talking to their sons about the need to respect girls and women.

Mothers need to tell their sons what it feels like to have to cope with the double standard in which boys who are sexually active are looked up to for being studs, while girls are looked down on for being sluts.

Girls who are centered rather than man-centered, valued for what they can do rather than how they look, who have a vision of a self-reliant and independent future rather than a life of domestic or welfare dependency will have the confidence to make choices that will promote their own success.

If the choice comes down to hurting themselves or hurting someone else's feelings, girls who have practiced these skills and who have a clear eye about what is at stake will place their own welfare first. They will feel entitled to do that.

(Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FORGOTTEN ELEMENT

Sir, - The Oslo agreement seems to have soured, to put it mildly. The right blames the left and the left blames the lack of goodwill and the incompetence of the Palestinian leadership. The religious preach hatred against Rabin and Peres and try at every opportunity to topple the government. But everyone, religious and secular, forgets the most important element in this whole insoluble equation - God.

Anything and everything we do to try to solve our problems is but an indication to the Lord of our intentions. The success of our endeavors, however, is totally reliant on Him.

Whether we try to rule over the Arabs, as we did for 27 years, which proved disastrous, or if we try with absolute sincerity to make peace with them, as we have been doing, or even if we were to try Rehavam Ze'evi's solution of transfer, we

have to simultaneously ask God for guidance and for wisdom.

After all, why are we deserving of Eretz Yisrael to begin with? Only because we are Jews. And what does being Jewish mean? It means that, while we are perfectly entitled to try to solve our problems as best we humanly can, we have to openly and publicly trust in God. Unless we do this, we are probably fated to eternally suffer from hatred towards us, terrorism and misery. Anyone with a discerning eye would realize this. After everything Rabin and Peres have been through, achieved and attempted, one would imagine that they would have reached this conclusion. Obviously they need some help. It is incumbent upon us, the People of Israel, to try to influence them or any future leaders of Israel.

MIKE GLAZER

Ganei Tikva.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Sir, - The article, "School kids ride the information superhighway" by Laura Rosen Cohen (February 8) was informative, but left the reader with a false impression that students at the Golda Meir Middle School in Ness Ziona are introduced to an E-mail project and computers for the first time in their studies at that school.

As an English teacher at the Eshkol Elementary School in Ness Ziona, I wish to inform your readers

that my school has been actively involved in several successful E-mail projects for the past three years. Projects for our pupils in grades 4, 5 and 6 include English and Hebrew correspondence, student council, Hebrew journal writing and ecology. Therefore, our graduates go on to the middle schools in Ness Ziona with a background in telecommunications and computer skills.

DINA YERUSHALMI

Ness Ziona.

THE FRENCH EMPIRE

Sir, - In his article of February 15, "In the dustbin of history," Shlomo Avineri misstates the position of France and its "abandoning of empire." France has an empire which it makes clear it plans to keep forever even if it means killing all the natives to do so.

Mr. Avineri should visit any of the islands of French Polynesia (100-plus islands), New Caledonia (much larger than Israel), Tuamotu Archipelago where France to this day conducts its nuclear tests (4,000 islands), Marquesas Islands (larger than the Hawaiian islands), Reunion Island (a "department" of France to this very day), etc., to learn that the French empire is alive and well. French dominance is gunboat diplomacy forcefully employed with torture, murder and disappearance of anyone who dares to object. This is from the "democracy of France."

RICHARD BETZALEL LEVINE

Jerusalem.

JAZZ IN ISRAEL

Sir, - I have been asked by the National Sound Archive of the British Library in London to assist in a project to acquire recordings from expat jazz musicians living in Israel. Anyone from Britain who is or was a jazz player should contact me at 09-359875 or write to 21/65 Lavon Boulevard, Netanya 42701.

STANLEY ROSS

Netanya.

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Join us

She looks back at family chaos with affection

BOOKS

FRANCESCA LYMAN

AMERICAN MOM: Motherhood, Politics and Humble Pie. By Mary Kay Blakely, Algonquin. \$19.95. 291 pp.

GOOD advice on mothering is hard to come by in books, writes author Mary Kay Blakely, who supplies a good reason why: "This great body of knowledge is essentially an oral history, because anyone engaged in motherhood on a daily basis has no time to write an advice book about it."

Little wonder, then, that Blakely's own memoir and meditation on motherhood comes as her two sons are leaving the nest. Offering no advice at all, *American Mom: Motherhood, Politics and Humble Pie*, simply serves up one good tale after another of the frazzling, frustrating but ultimately fulfilling life and times of a divorced, working mother.

After nearly 20 years of what would have to be a struggle and a juggle raising sons very close in age on her own for the most part, she finds herself adjusting to a suddenly changed reality: "Now I didn't want my grown sons, my daily buddies, to leave home; I also couldn't wait for their ravenous appetites and deafening music to go."

If such a clear expression of the "empty nest" syndrome might sound like something equally at home in the pages of Erma Bombeck, the author's more complicated view is informed by the wrenching social transformations of the last few decades.

Blakely's objection to "deafening music" sounds oddly old-fashioned for someone of her generation, but these memoirs portray her as caught between a fairly conventional Catholic upbringing and unconventional today. Blakely spent little time as a full-time mother in the traditional sense, in her case owing to financial difficulties and a divorce.

Her nontraditional family's life is unique - including stages she describes as "the charmingly chaotic, physically affectionate years of our young nuclear family; the emotionally explosive and slightly radioactive period of our post-nuclear family; the surprisingly fluid and eventually peaceful transition into two long-distance single-parent families" - each capped by periods of poverty and stress that finally led her to the ultimate edge - a harrowing nine-day coma.

But Blakely's struggles and stresses - with spouse, children and other loves (such as a post-separation relationship that doesn't last either) - relate to challenges universally faced by mothers. Her wry and witty handling of them make satisfying medicine for maternal distress.

Blakely, the author of another memoir, *Wake Me When It's Over*, injects political commentary, relating her stories to feminist theory. But she leaves it with wit, as when she writes about celebrity moms who have the luxury of having it all without having to really put out extra: "Most of the rest of us were still laboring under the cliché: 'A woman has to work twice as hard as any man to be considered half as good.' That equation kept us so frazzled that hundreds of women from coast to coast thought my coma sounded like something they might want to try." (She notes that a woman from Portland called in to ask what nine days of sleep was like.)

BLAKELY'S ODYSSEY begins in chapter one, "Maternal Bondage," with her first hint that motherhood would be more complicated than expected, the night she goes into labor while being coached in natural childbirth's deep-breathing techniques.

Expecting to be "self-anesthetized" as promised, she reports, "If my self-anesthesia took at all, it packed the power of two baby aspirin."

Next, trying to conquer the business of maternal bonding (after her husband, "having concluded his duties as a natural father - goes home to catch up on a night of lost sleep"), she waits for the magic moment when her maternal instincts are supposed to "kick in" - to no avail.

It would be years, she writes, before she would comprehend that "the effortless knowledge women allegedly acquired at birth" was a "cultural invention that kept the hard work of motherhood invisible to anyone outside the field."

On the other hand, myths about motherhood, she reflects, often contain a grain of truth.

Among her many stories, Blakely lovingly chronicles the transformations of her sons from boys to men - well, their efforts anyway - like the older son who turned up the collars of his jackets and practiced facial expressions. "In his school pictures that year, his lips are curled in a lopsided grimace and his eyes narrowed in an apparent effort to look like Clint Eastwood. But among the frankly cheerful smiles in the freshman year book, he looked more like a stroke patient suffering temporary paralysis. Masculinity comes hard to the baby-faced."

Blakely's comments are less original when dealing with the new challenges afflicting parents, such as the social problems named as the top five: drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, suicide and homicide, gang violence, anorexia and bulimia.

"Ryan and Darren ... had friends who had to be hospitalized, who disappeared into recovery programs, who had brothers in jail, who had pregnant sisters. We'd traveled a long way from their early charming inquiries ('Mom, how many chews are there in a stick of gum?') to their frightening questions now: 'Mom can you really get addicted to crack after only one try?'" Such glimpses don't offer much.

A more compelling real-life tale from the front comes when her son returns home from college the week the story of a gang rape hits. The author fearfully nudges him for a reaction. "'Mom!' he fairly shouted. 'Are you really asking if I know whether it's wrong to rape a retarded girl with a baseball bat?' She was; she could hardly believe it herself.... Because she knew, as most mothers who take the news personally do, that the integrity of every young man is under constant assault."

The scope and scope of Blakely's emotional terrain in *American Mom* is as wide-ranging and laced with irony as her book's title would suggest. These quirky and very personal anecdotes are what is best about this diary of a struggling mother, which should have plenty of resonance among mothers today. It should also be required reading for that new demographic category Blakely invents: "working fathers," the ones learning to make brownies. (Los Angeles Times)

פוליטיקה



'Politics Is for Me' (*Hapoliitika Zeh Ken Bishvil*) is a handbook in Hebrew for women who want to enter public life or politics here. Its many authors include academics and politicians who discuss strategies for attaining power and influence, negotiating the personal fallout of political life, using the media effectively, marketing one's ideas, and raising funds. The book was published by the Israel Women's Network, with support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and is available in bookstores throughout the country.

Women in the '90s denied their rights

EDITH LEDERER
LONDON

FOR millions of women, the 1990s brought terror, discrimination and a denial of human rights. Amnesty International said in a report issued yesterday to coincide with International Women's Day.

"Human rights violations against women are rampant partly because they remain largely hidden," it said. "Women are the invisible victims of the 1990s."

Amnesty International called on governments to adopt a plan to promote and protect women's human rights.

"No country in the world treats its women as well as its men. Women from all social classes, cultures and races, in all societies, are at risk of abuse of their human rights," it said.

Women around the world are denied human rights because of deeply rooted discrimination, wars and civil conflicts, and repression of their political or social activism, it said in the report.

"A proliferation of situations of armed conflict is devastating women's lives in many quarters of the globe," the report said. "As the 20th century draws to a close, women who have taken no part in conflicts are being murdered, raped and mutilated."

Most casualties of war are women and children, and in conflict areas women are often targeted for reprisal killings, rape and sexual assault, the report said.

Women fleeing conflicts make up 80 percent of the world's refugee population, and sexual favors are often the price they must pay to safely pass smugglers, border guards and security forces.

Governments have more or less ignored human rights violations against women - and sometimes effectively given a green light to torture or rape by their police or soldiers," Amnesty International said.

Launching a worldwide campaign to put the human rights of

women in the spotlight in the run-up to the UN Conference on Women in September, it said governments which pay little more than lip service to women's rights must be pushed into action.

"Governments are now sending worrying signals that they want to limit - rather than promote - women's civil and political rights at the UN conference," it said.

At the conference in Beijing, governments should formally recognize their responsibility for all human rights violations against women by their security forces, the report said.

The conference also should acknowledge that all international human rights standards apply to women and propose concrete action for promoting and preventing violations of women's human rights, Amnesty International said.

Individual governments should safeguard the rights of women during armed conflict and stop rape, sexual abuse and other torture or ill-treatment by government agents, it said. Governments should also halt illegal detentions and executions of women.

The wars in Bosnia and Rwanda reminded the world how vulnerable women and their families are during conflicts and "demonstrated that the deliberate violation of the human rights of women is a central component of military strategy in all parts of the world," the report said.

It cited examples of women raped in Chiapas in southern Mexico, where an armed peasant movement took control of several towns in January 1994, and of hundreds of women killed in fighting in Somalia and in Mali.

Women activists have also been imprisoned, tortured or killed, the report said. It cited examples in Mexico, Indonesia, El Salvador, Burma, China, Iran and Uzbekistan. (AP)

When freedom of speech and religion collide

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

Americans have a treasured right to free speech. But when that speech is religious, at issue is whether the government is allowed, even obliged, to finance it.

The US Supreme Court has been asked to mediate a difficult case that essentially pits the right to free speech against another enshrined principle, one that bars government entanglement with religion. Both of these rights are preserved in the First Amendment to the constitution.

The case stems from the 1991 refusal of the University of Virginia to dispense \$5,800, collected for a student activities fund, to cover the costs of a magazine edited by student Ronald Rosenberger. The university provided Rosenberger and his colleagues with office space, but no cash.

The publication, *Wide Awake: A Christian Perspective at the University of Virginia*, intended "to challenge Christians to live... according to the faith they proclaim and to encourage students to consider what a personal relationship with Jesus Christ means," Rosenberger wrote in the first issue.

Rosenberger is no longer a student at Virginia, and his magazine, which was distributed free of charge, folded after four issues.

If Rosenberger wins, "this would be the first time the court said that a government institution is obligated to fund religious activity," said Steven Freeman of the Anti-Defamation League, which filed a brief in support of the university.

This case is potentially explosive because it could ultimately allow greater governmental accommodation of religion, including public aid for religious education, which has long been sought by some segments of American society and vigorously fought by others.

Last year, in a case that riveted observers, the court disallowed a special school district created by New York State to accommodate disabled youngsters from the Satmar hassidic village of Kiryas Joel.

BESIDES ITS potential implications, the Virginia case is fraught with symbolism. It comes from the university founded by Thomas Jefferson, one of the framers of the US Constitution who later became the third president. He strove to keep the university, as well as the new nation, free of church ties.

The First Amendment's so-called establishment clause, which says the state cannot establish a religion, is the basis for the strict American separation of church and state. The clause originally was intended to protect religion from the state, but in contemporary American society, it increasingly has been construed as protecting the state from religion.

The heart of the dilemma is whether the right to free speech requires the university to provide funds for religious magazines as it does for nonreligious publications and whether, at the same time, the establishment clause bars the university from doing so.

"The First Amendment is a single sentence with a lot of commas," said Kevin Hasson, presi-

dent and general counsel of the Washington-based Becket Fund, an ecumenical public interest law firm. "It doesn't make sense that the first part of the sentence requires something that the second part forbids," he said.

The Becket Fund is not involved in this case, but a member of its advisory board, Michael W. McConnell of the University of Chicago, is representing Rosenberger.

The University of Virginia, attended by 20,000 students, argued the case on two grounds. First, it said that as a governmental entity, it could not be used to fund religious speech violated the establishment clause.

Second, the university said, it is not obliged to fulfill all requests for subsidies.

"This case is not specifically about religion," said the university's attorney, John Jeffries Jr. "It is about funding and the decisions that must be made when allocating scarce resources."

The state-run school said it did not suppress a particular religious view, but refused to fund all publications involving religious advocacy, political activity or lobbying. Jeffries said it would not finance a publication advocating anti-Christian views.

More than 115 independent student organizations - including the Muslim Student Association, the Jewish Law Students Association and a dozen publications - got subsidies from the student activity fund in the 1990-1991 academic year, according to court records.

Rosenberger contended that the university violated his free-speech rights because if it funds some speech, it has to fund all.

In effect, the university was arguing that some speech is entitled to state support, while other speech is not. Creating a difference in financial aid based on content is illegal, he said.

"This is a difficult case to defend because we are asking for discrimination for a particular kind of speech," said Marc Stern, a legal director at the American Jewish Congress. But, he added, "Jews like the idea of the government not being in the business of funding religion."

Thus far, the lower federal courts have sided with the university. The US Court of Appeals held that providing the subsidy would have breached the establishment clause.

The Supreme Court heard arguments in the case last week. Its ruling on whether the university violated the students' free speech rights is expected this summer.

"A person's right to free speech is not absolute," said David Zweibel, counsel for Agudath Israel, adding, "You don't have the right to yell 'fire' in a crowded theater."

The right to free speech can be set aside when there are so-called "compelling state interests," which are determined on a case-by-case basis. Until now, the establishment clause has been the more powerful constitutional concern, leaving some observers to speculate that if the court accepts the argument about a violation of the establishment clause, free speech - as hallowed as it has been in American history - will have to yield.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1995

US Shamrock Group buys 22.5% of Koor Industries for \$252 million

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE US Shamrock Group, an investment firm controlled by the Disney family, has signed an agreement in principle to buy Hevrat Ha'ovdim's 22.5 percent share in Koor Industries for \$252 million, the group announced yesterday.

The price is about 20 percent higher than the shares' average market value since the start of the year.

The agreement was reached after five months of intensive negotiations with several investment groups.

"In the middle of February 1995, we received Poalim Capital Markets' valuation of the company of between \$1.2 billion and \$1.28b," Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon said. "In light of the situation on the stock market, Hevrat Ha'ovdim informed all interested parties that it is willing to accept bids based on a minimum market valuation of \$1.1b."

"I must emphasize that Koor's market value yesterday [Monday] was less than \$900m," Ramon said. "We were able to sell our shares at about 25% above the shares' market value because of Benny Gaon's [Koor president and CEO] significant contribution to the company's performance."

Following the announcement, Koor's shares jumped 5.75% on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange on very high turnover of about NIS 6 million. Shares related to the Koor group also increased sharply on high turnovers.

The proceeds of the sale will be

used to cover part of the Histadrut's NIS 1 billion deficit, despite Ramon's initial plans to transfer the money into a special fund for social activities. The Histadrut has decided to use the proceeds of the sale to cover Koor's debt.

"I'm afraid the money will cover only part of the Histadrut's deficits," Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oran said.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim and the Shamrock Group have 30 days to reach a definitive agreement in which the conditions will be finalized.

Koor's board of directors can decide to distribute dividends of no more than NIS 22.5m. to shareholders before conclusion of the sale. The distribution of dividends is also subject to the approval of Koor's general shareholders meeting.

"The board of directors has to decide whether to distribute dividends and, if so, how much," Ramon said. "If they decide to give out dividends totaling NIS 22.5m., the Histadrut is entitled to receive NIS 3m."

Shamrock president Stanley Gold said the group will consider purchasing additional shares in Koor in the future. He said the Shamrock Group is currently negotiating with US investors that they plan to bring into the transaction.

"The group will be made up of at least 50% US investors," Gold said. "It's a Shamrock deal, but historically we bring in partners in our transactions."

He added that "we have great confidence in management of this



Stanley Gold: Shamrock will consider purchasing additional shares in Koor.

company, which is led by Gaon. We hope that through our influence we will be able to take it to greater heights."

Gaon was enthusiastic about the sale. "We could not have hoped for better new owners than them," he said. "The sale transaction ends a chapter in the Israeli economy, with Koor's total cut off from the Histadrut."

Koor's other major shareholders include Bank Hapoalim with a 26% stake and Bank Leumi with 7%. The company is also owned by Provident and mutual funds affiliated with Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi with a 17% stake, and the public, which holds the remaining 27.5%.

Shamrock Group backs Gaon's plans for company

THE Shamrock Group supports Koor president and CEO Benny Gaon's plans to turn Koor into a multinational company by listing its shares on a foreign exchange and reaching strategic agreements outside of Israel, Shamrock president Stanley Gold said yesterday.

Gold said there are plans to list Koor's shares on a foreign exchange soon, and the company will be a player in government privatization tenders.

The Shamrock Group said it does not plan any changes in Koor's structure or management.

"Gaon sees Koor as a multinational company," Gold said. "I see eye to eye with Gaon... I think the Shamrock Group will be able to help Koor. We have contacts worldwide, especially in the US and in Europe."

The Shamrock Group is a privately held company owned by Roy Disney. It is considered one of the largest investment firms in the US - with investments in Walt Disney, an independent Polish telephone company, the fifth largest radio company in the US, LA Gear and other companies.

The Shamrock Group's investments here include its control of Matav Cable company, Telrad and Dor Energy.

Gold said Koor will be the Shamrock Group's second largest investment, after Walt Disney. Sources close to the sale said

Gaon's significant involvement in the sale process and contribution to Koor's business performance in the last few years contributed to the Shamrock Group's desire to make the deal.

Koor's business performance has significantly improved in recent years, mainly because of the implementation of Gaon's recovery program - which included the closing of numerous money-losing operations, the sale of assets and layoffs.

As a result, the company turned an accumulated debt of \$1.3 billion into a profitable holding company.

Gaon has met with Shamrock representatives several times in the past months on issues related to the Histadrut's sale of Koor shares. Sources close to the sale said Gaon convinced the Shamrock Group to conclude the transaction as soon as possible.

The Shamrock Group has shown interest in buying Koor shares several times in the past. In 1992, Shamrock was interested in buying the Koor bonds held by the government, which were convertible into about 10% of Koor's total share capital.

The Knesset Finance Committee rejected the proposal, because the bid was not high enough. The Shamrock Group has also expressed interest in the purchase of Tadiran, a major Koor subsidiary.

Provident fund assets plummet NIS 1.3 billion

JOSE ROSENFELD

PROVIDENT fund (Kupat Gmel) assets have fallen NIS 1.28 billion since the beginning of the year, as poor yields had savers leaving the funds in droves, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Provident fund assets fell NIS 699.57 million in February, following a drop of NIS 577.47m. in January.

Provident fund savers withdrew NIS 1.15b. last month, compared with NIS 1.03b. in January, and deposited NIS 448m.

By contrast, training fund (Keren Hishtalmut) assets continued

increasing, rising NIS 38.45m. after growing NIS 36m. in January. Training fund savers deposited NIS 248m. and redeemed NIS 210m.

In an unusual move aimed at calming worried savers, the Treasury yesterday noted that provident fund managers reported a drop in the volume of redemptions from the beginning of March.

Usually, the Treasury announces the funds' activities only at the beginning of the next month.

'Falling interest rates will cause devaluation'

EVELYN GORDON

INTEREST rates are slowly dropping, which will naturally bring a devaluation in its wake, Bank of Israel research department head Dr. Liora Meridor told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday during a discussion of export profitability.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper painted a grim picture of declining export profitability, which he blamed on two factors: a 9.3% rise in import prices last year while export prices went up only 1.5%, and the shekel's 2.9% devaluation against the dollar, while labor costs rose 10.5%.

Both of these problems, he said, have continued this year, and are likely to result in slower growth and higher unemployment in 1995.

Meridor, however, disputed Propper's assessment. While export profitability did decline in 1994, she said, the drop was a mere 0.5%, and the level of profitability remains relatively high.

Furthermore, she said, the main blow to profitability came from neither the conditions of trade - though this was a factor - nor the exchange rate, but the fact that labor costs rose more than productivity.

According to Meridor, indus-

trial productivity rose only about 1% last year, though Propper put the figure at 3.5%.

However, Meridor agreed with Propper that steps must be taken to improve the situation. Both exports and industrial investment rose in quantitative terms last year, she said, and if export profitability continues to decline, this trend might be reversed.

The recent high interest rates were necessary to stem inflation - a factor which also tends to decrease business profitability - but the rates are coming down now, she continued. This will naturally bring about a devaluation of the shekel within its permitted band of fluctuation, she said.

Additional budget cuts, however, would make it possible to reduce interest rates more quickly and sharply, Meridor added.

Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said afterward that Propper's picture of the situation seemed overly gloomy, but agreed that some action must be taken.

Likud MKs, however, expressed some concern over Propper's insistence on a devaluation.

"A devaluation is easy medicine, but it isn't always the proper long-term treatment," said Michael Eitan (Likud).

\$700m. in loan guarantees for IEC approved

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday unanimously approved \$700 million in loan guarantees for the Israel Electric Corporation, enabling it to continue with its long-term investment program.

The company's plan calls for investing some NIS 10 billion between 1993 and 1998. However, it has had trouble financing this program exclusively via bank loans, because the banks have rules limiting the amount of money they can lend to any single customer.

However, these rules do not apply to loans backed by government guarantees.

The Finance Committee approved \$800m. in guarantees for the Electric Corp. in September 1993, but these were all used up by the end of last year. The company thus requested an additional \$700m. in guarantees for 1995.

According to the Treasury, which supported the request, the commercial banks will have no trouble finding the cash for the loans, because they have access to long-term funds raised with the US loan guarantees.

This enables them to provide the Electric Corp. with the long-term loans it needs.

Clalit unveils supplementary insurance scheme

Offering policy through a consortium of four private insurance companies

JUDY SIEGEL

MORE than two months after the national health insurance system went into effect, Kupat Holim Clalit yesterday became the last of the four health funds to unveil a supplementary health insurance scheme for its members.

Unlike the other three insurers, Clalit is offering a policy through a consortium of four private insurance companies - Dikla, Clal, Migdal and Shiloah-Harel.

The Maccabi, Leumi and

Meuhedet health funds all supply supplementary health insurance themselves.

Clalit's policy, which will be available starting Sunday, is a comprehensive one, instead of one divided into levels of coverage.

Clalit members who join the scheme during the next three months will enjoy a 33 percent discount for the year and pay

NIS 12 a month for an adult up to the age of children up to 18 are free. Those aged 50 to 59 will pay NIS 18; age 60 to 64 will pay NIS 28; 65 to 69 will pay NIS 38; and over 70 years old will pay NIS 48.

It includes nursing care (costing NIS 5,000 a month for up to three years), a discount on dental care, help in paying for a private surgeon, and discounts for phys-

iotherapy, communications therapy, occupational therapy and psychological help.

It also grants an additional \$100,000 to cover the costs of organ transplants abroad; the limit of the national basket of health services is \$250,000.

Clalit members may join by signing a form sent to them by mail. The policy has been approved by the Health and Finance ministries and the Treasury official in charge of insurance.

Elscent posts 61% fall in annual net profits; fourth quarter net earnings also plummet

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELSCINT reported a 61 percent drop in annual net profits to \$10.1 million from \$26.35m. in 1993.

Revenues rose to \$234.8m. from \$237.8m., while price per share fell to \$0.13 from \$0.33.

Net profits for the fourth quarter dropped to \$1.2m. from \$3.9m. in the corresponding period in 1993.

Price per share dropped to \$0.015 from \$0.05, while revenues rose to \$67m. from \$60.1m.

The company said a highly competitive health care market and an increased emphasis on research and development were responsible for the poor showing last year.

Last year Elscint acquired the MRI business of Otsuka Electronics and the ultrasound business of Ausonics (Pty) Ltd.

Tambour suffered a dramatic drop in annual net profits to NIS 1.2m. from NIS 44.6m.

Price per share fell to NIS 0.02 from NIS 0.74, while revenues went up to NIS 425.5m. from NIS 394.3m.

Recalculation of the 1994 third quarter resulted in a net loss of NIS 7.4m.

Prior to the recalculation, the company reported a net loss of NIS 1m. for the third quarter on revenues of NIS 289m.

Net profits for the fourth quarter fell to NIS 2.3m. from NIS 5.7m. during the same period in 1993.

Quarterly revenues rose to NIS 94.7m. from NIS 79.5m.

Gav Yam (Bayside Land) has announced a drop in consolidated annual net profits to NIS 25m. from NIS 28.9m.

Price per share fell to NIS 13.04 from NIS 15.59, while revenues decreased to NIS 98.7m. from NIS 148.6m.

Fourth quarter net profits rose to NIS 7.3m. from NIS 7.1m.

Revenues went up to NIS 26.4m. from NIS 23.5m.

Zika reported a drop in annual net profits to NIS 2.1m. from NIS 3.5m.

Price per share dropped to NIS 0.71 from NIS 1.17, while revenues went up to NIS 69.27m. from NIS 64.74m.

The company, an electrode manufacturer, experienced a net loss of NIS 10,000 for the fourth quarter, compared with a net gain of NIS 759,000 in the parallel period in 1993.

Quarterly revenues rose to NIS 20.2m. from NIS 13.9m.

Agish International Transport announced a decrease in annual net profits to NIS 1.4m. from NIS 2.2m.

Quarterly revenues went up to NIS 18.75m. from NIS 4m.

Kanil reported an increase in annual net profits to NIS 2.5m. from NIS 2.1m.

Price per share went up to NIS 0.47 from NIS 0.39, while revenues fell to NIS 231.8m. from NIS 277m.

The carton manufacturer suffered a NIS 700,000 net loss in the fourth quarter, compared with a NIS 3.1m. net loss in the same period in 1993.

WORLD BRIEFS

Wellcome succumbs to Glaxo takeover bid: British drugs company Wellcome, fighting a £9 billion takeover bid from Glaxo, conceded defeat yesterday and recommended shareholders to accept the Glaxo offer. The company said the recommendation came as two potential "white knight" counter-bidders - believed to be Zeneca Group and Switzerland's Roche Holding Ltd - decided not to make an offer for the company.

Glaxo's offer, which would create the world's largest drugs company, closes tomorrow. It has been accepted by Wellcome's 39.5-percent shareholder, the Wellcome Trust. The takeover, and the earnings injection it will bring, is seen as pivotal to the future of Glaxo, which is suffering flagging sales of its top ulcer drug Zantac.

Reuter

Gold surges as dollar tumbles: Buyers in Japan and several other nations around the globe snapped up gold this week after the fall in the value of the dollar sent local currency bullion prices toward the bargain basement.

In Japanese yen, gold started last year at 44,299 yen and has since dropped to 35,150. Sterling's weakness has stemmed the price fall for UK customers. Gold peaked at £264 in April last year and has since fallen to just above £230. In dollar terms, gold traded between \$368 and \$398 during 1994. The price has been weak this year but has remained above last April's low of \$368.20. It fixed yesterday at \$379.00 per ounce.

Reuter

ILANOT ILAN MUTUAL FUND FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Notice of updating the Fund's Unit Price & Redemption Price due to anticipated income tax refund

In accordance with a circular dated March 2, 1995 of the Israeli Securities Authority to the Managers of Mutual Funds, determining the time for updating the Unit Price and the Redemption Price in respect of Income Tax refund anticipated to the Mutual Fund following the signing of an agreement with the Income Tax Authorities relating to deductible expenses for Israeli Income Tax purposes, notice is hereby given that beginning on March 6, 1995 and thereafter, the Income Tax refund anticipated to the Fund plus interest and linkage differences accrued by law in respect of such refund, as known on the aforesaid date, is included in the computation of the Fund's Unit Price and Redemption Price notwithstanding that such refund has not yet been received by the Fund. Consequently, the Fund's Unit Price and Redemption Price for March 6, 1995 increased by 0.02%.

The anticipated refund is subject to an audit by the Income Tax Authorities and will accrue interest and linkage differences as provided by law for the period up to the actual receipt thereof. Until actual receipt of such refund, the Fund's Unit Price and Redemption Price will be updated at the end of each calendar month for the interest and linkage differences accrued by law during the same month in respect of such anticipated refund.

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.3.95)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.375	5.500	6.125	
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	5.375	5.500	5.875	
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	5.375	5.500	5.625	
U.S. dollar (\$5,000)	5.375	5.500	5.375	
U.S. dollar (\$1,000)	5.375	5.500	5.125	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.3.95)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4150	3.4570	2.89	3.4444
U.S. dollar	2.9484	2.9889	2.89	2.9703
German mark	2.1075	2.1372	2.07	2.1245
French franc	4.7794	4.8405	4.67	4.8292
Japanese yen (100)	0.5940	0.6024	0.57	0.5811
Swiss franc	3.2090	3.2541	3.15	3.2000
Dutch guilder	1.8628	1.9083	1.85	1.8927
British pound	2.5222	2.5688	2.47	2.5174
Swedish krona	0.4088	0.4143	0.40	0.4110
Norwegian krone	0.4738	0.4806	0.46	0.4783
Denmark krone	0.5207	0.5280	0.51	0.5253
Finnish mark	0.5947	0.6044	0.57	0.5811
Canadian dollar	2.0795	2.1088	2.04	2.0714
Australian dollar	2.1785	2.2082	2.21	2.1917
S. African rand	0.8257	0.8394	0.76	0.7814
Belgian franc (10)	1.0225	1.0373	1.00	1.0128
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9884	3.0314	2.93	3.0175
Italian lira (1000)	1.7787	1.8220	1.75	1.8022
Jordanian dinar			4.18	4.2214
Egyptian pound			0.84	0.8511
Irish punt	3.6742	3.7387	3.68	3.7488
Spanish peseta (100)	4.7941	4.8616	4.68	4.7511
	2.9007	2.9331	2.89	2.9188

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Graham charged with misconduct

LONDON (Reuters) - George Graham was charged by the English Football Association yesterday with misconduct in relation to the alleged illegal payments which cost him his job last month as Arsenal manager.

The move threatens the future career of Graham, who was said by a Premier League inquiry to have received £425,000 from the transfers of Scandinavian Pal Lydersen and John Jensen.

Graham was sacked by Arsenal on February 21, two days before Premier League chief executive Rick Parry made the inquiry report public.

He has 21 days to respond to the FA charge. Graham was sacked by Arsenal for "not acting in the best interests of the club."

During his highly successful 8½-year reign, Arsenal won six trophies.

The Premier League inquiry covered the transfers of Danish international Jensen from Danish club Brøndby and Lydersen from Start

of Norway.

Documents and evidence had been passed to the FA by Parry and Sir John Quinton, chairman of the Premier League Board.

A statement announcing the FA decision yesterday read: "The Football Association has decided to charge Mr George Graham, the former manager of Arsenal Football Club, with misconduct in relation to payments allegedly received by him in connection with transfers."

"On February 28, the Football Association received evidence from the FA Premier League inquiry concerning the transfers of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen from their Scandinavian clubs to Arsenal in November 1991 and July 1992 respectively."

"The Football Association is still considering the evidence. It will be conducting its own investigation. We will be in touch with Arsenal shortly in connection with the facts surrounding these matters."

"Mr Graham has 21 days in which to respond to the charges against him."

Graham says the money he received from Norwegian agent Rune Hauge was an unsolicited gift. Once the payments had emerged, Graham paid back the cash to Arsenal plus an additional £40,000 "on account of profits".

UEFA president Lennart Johansson, meanwhile, is reported as having said: "If it's proven that a manager has taken money from a transfer, he must be banned for life worldwide."

Referring to Graham, he is quoted as saying: "Arsenal have already reacted and I would think it would be very difficult for the man (Graham) to get a new job."

"Our sanctions will follow when the FA reports are on our table, though I am certain the FA will take the necessary actions."

Arsenal managing director Ken Friar promised yesterday: "We will co-operate fully with the FA inquiry."



GETTING READY - Israel's soccer players train in Istanbul before the international friendly against Turkey today. (AP)

Israel faces tough test against Turks today

ORI LEWIS

A BELOW-STRENGTH Israel side faces a stern test of character against Turkey in Istanbul today in what is the last warm-up match before the crucial soccer encounter with France at the end of the month.

Shlomo Scharf's men, short of the in-form Ronny Rosenthal and Itzik Zohar, who are still with their respective clubs in England and Belgium and possibly also without the injured Eyal Benin, will be looking to eke out what the coach described as a "positive result" against an uncompromising opponent. The Turks are regarded one of the most improved soccer nations on the continent.

"As long as we don't lose, I will

be very pleased," Scharf said last night.

"This will be a very difficult game and should prepare us well for the big match against France. It will be a good opportunity for the players to prove themselves against very tough opponents, the Turks are no pushovers and will be very well supported."

The Israel under-21 side came out second-best in the match against its Turkish opponents yesterday, going down 3-2 after conceding a penalty just before the end.

Some 2,000 fanatical home fans saw a free-flowing game in

which the Israelis made much of the running, and created many chances against the Turks.

Two goals by Shai Holtzman, one in each half, saw Israel take the lead and then wipe out a 2-1 deficit, only to see the Turks clinch victory with a dubious penalty in the 88th minute.

Coach Yitzhak Shum was very pleased with his charges, saying they had stood up well to the pressure of playing against a home side supported by a partisan crowd. Two defensive blunders let in the Turkish goals, however.

Tonight's match will be shown live on Channel 1 starting at 20:30.

S Africa dominates NZ with one day left in Test

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - Batsmen Gary Kirsten, Andrew Hudson and Hansie Cronje worked South Africa into a strong position against New Zealand by the close of play yesterday, fourth day of their Test at Auckland.

South Africa was 232 for four, an overall lead of 198, at the close with Cronje not out on 58 and Jonty Rhodes on seven.

Kirsten scored 76 and Hudson 64.

South African coach Bob Woolmer said at a press conference captain Cronje would look to declare on the last day.

"I'm sure he'll find some way to make a game of it," he said. There was also a hint of possible controversy during the day when television cameras focused on seamer Dion Nash attending to the ball.

Woolmer said at a press conference later he had spoken to match referee Barry Jarman about a minor matter, but he refused to discuss it further. Under International Cricket Council rules, Jarman cannot comment until the end of the match.

Cronje was in belligerent mood with the bat, hitting three sixes and four fours in his fourth Test fifty.

He savaged the slow bowlers, swatting Dipak Patel for two six-

es over midwicket and driving Matthew Hart over mid-off for the same result.

Hudson fell to a brilliant catch by Bryan Young for 64 when he slashed at a wide full toss outside offstump from Patel. The ball flew to cover, where Young flung himself to his left to catch it at full stretch.

Hudson scored eight fours in his 10th Test fifty. With Cronje he put on 83 runs to restore some order to the innings, which had been teetering at 140 for three at tea.

SA first innings 294 (D.Cullinan 98) SA second innings 76 G.Kirsten c Parsons b Nash 13 R.Steyn c Richardson b Patel 14 A.Hudson c Young b Patel 64 D.Cullinan c Parsons b Hart 12 H.Cronje not out 58 J.Rhodes not out 7 Extras (nb-1 lb-1) 2 Total (four innings) 222

SA first innings (overnight 316-7) NZ first innings 74 B.Young c Richardson b Donald 25 D.Murray c Kirsten b Cronje 16 M.Crowe c Hudson b de Villiers 17 S.Flanning b Matthews 17 S.Rutherford c Richardson b Cronje 22 A.Parsons c Richardson b Donald 22 M.Hart b de Villiers 22 G.Lesien not out 2 D.Patel c Richardson b Donald 15 D.Nash b de Villiers 1 D.McCormick c Cullinan b Donald 1 Extras (nb-3 w-1 lb-0) 9 Total 328

Fall of wickets: 1-122 3-135 4-218 Bowling (no ball: Morrison 15-5-45-0, Nash 15-2-50-1, Patel 55-4-55-2, Lesien 12-4-17-0, Hart 12-3-50-1 (nb-1)).

Pakistan sacks cricket captain in bribe scandal

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuters) - Pakistan captain Salim Malik, accused of offering bribes to two Australian players to throw a Test last year, was sacked by his country's cricket authorities yesterday.

Team manager Intikhab Alam has also been sacked, though it was not immediately known whether his dismissal was as a result of a Pakistani inquiry into the bribery allegations or for any other disciplinary matter.

A statement by the ad-hoc committee running the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said Malik had been asked to explain his conduct within seven days, during which he would remain suspended from first-class cricket.

A story in Melbourne's *The Age* newspaper last month said Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne and off-spinner Tim May would allege in reports to the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) that Malik had offered them \$50,000 each to lose the first Test in Karachi last September. Malik denied the charges.

The ACB subsequently sent details to the International Cricket Council.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ashburn elected to Hall of Fame

Richie Ashburn, a star centerfielder for the Philadelphia Phillies in the 1950s, was elected yesterday to the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

Also elected by the Veterans Committee at its annual meeting in Tampa were William Hulbert, who played a key role in the development of the National League, Leon Day, a former star in the Negro Leagues, and Vic Willis, a turn-of-the-century pitcher. *Reuters*

McClellan starting to respond

American boxer Gerald McClellan yesterday showed the first signs of regaining consciousness, 10 days after being critically injured during a world title fight with Britain's Nigel Benn.

McClellan was "showing signs of responding," said John Pullin, duty manager at the Royal London Hospital. *Reuters*

'OneAustralia' pushed beyond limit

Australian America's Cup yacht *oneAustralia* sank because it was pushed beyond its physical limits, according to the man who built the hull.

John McConaghy, who built both the *oneAustralia* and Sydney 95 yachts, said it appeared *oneAustralia* had broken in half because it had exceeded its design limits. *AP*

Ince charged with assault

England international footballer Paul Ince has been charged with assaulting a spectator at a match between his club Manchester United and Crystal Palace of London in January, police said yesterday.

Ince, 27, was charged on Monday with assaulting a spectator following the Eric Cantona incident. *Reuters*

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER - Yesterday's Premier League results: Wimbledon 0, Manchester United 1.

NHL - Monday's results: Quebec 6, New Jersey 3; N.Y. Rangers 4, Ottawa 3; Dallas 5, Los Angeles 2; Detroit 5, Vancouver 2.

Israelis holding their own in tennis satellite

HEATHER CHAIT

FIVE Israeli tennis players reached the second round of the second leg of the \$25,000 Club Hotel Eilat satellite in Haifa yesterday.

Top seed Gilad Bloom (198 in the IBM/ATP rankings) made few mistakes against Italy's Igor Gaudi (655), winning confidently 6-4, 6-1.

The winner of the first stage in Ashkelon and fourth seed Eyal Erlich (304) was stretched to three sets against qualifier Tobias Hildebrand (1075) from Sweden before clinching the game 7-6(5), 6-7(4), 6-3. With one set behind him and leading 4-1, Erlich squandered away his

lead, taking the match to the deciding set.

Lior Mor (465) had an easier match against Dominik Hrbaty (769) from Slovakia, winning 6-3, 6-0.

The other two local winners were Oren Motevassel (521) who beat Ian Williams (670) of the US 6-4, 6-2 and Nir Welgerson (683) who defeated compatriot Tomer Dank (1075) 6-2, 6-0.

In today's play at the Israel Tennis Center in Haifa, Bloom faces Eddy Bank (676) of the Netherlands and Erlich plays another qualifier, Slovakia's Jaka Bozic (921).

MONDAY'S NBA RESULTS: Chicago 103, Portland 83; Golden State 106, Seattle 103; L.A. Clippers 101, Minnesota 84.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	46	14	.768	-
New York	37	19	.661	6.5
Boston	34	23	.593	9.5
New Jersey	23	36	.389	22
Miami	22	35	.386	22
Philadelphia	17	41	.293	27.5
Washington	16	42	.279	29
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Charlotte	37	22	.627	-
Indiana	36	23	.609	2
Cleveland	33	24	.579	3
Chicago	30	30	.500	7.5
Atlanta	29	30	.492	8.5
Detroit	22	35	.386	14
Minnesota	22	37	.373	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	42	16	.724	-
San Antonio	39	18	.684	1.5
Houston	35	23	.603	7
Dallas	29	31	.483	15.5
Denver	22	33	.400	18.5
Minnesota	18	43	.297	28.5
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	45	14	.763	-
Seattle	38	20	.655	6.5
L.A. Lakers	36	20	.643	7.5
Portland	30	26	.538	13.5
Sacramento	29	27	.518	14.5
Golden State	17	40	.298	27
L.A. Clippers	12	48	.200	33.5

GENERAL

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WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Weather
Amsterdam	10-12	cloudy
Berlin	8-10	cloudy
Bombay	28-30	cloudy
Buenos Aires	12-15	cloudy
Calcutta	28-30	cloudy
Cairo	20-22	cloudy
Copenhagen	5-7	cloudy
Dublin	8-10	cloudy
Geneva	8-10	cloudy
Helsinki	5-7	cloudy
Hong Kong	22-24	cloudy
Jerusalem	15-18	cloudy
London	8-10	cloudy
Los Angeles	18-20	cloudy
Madrid	12-15	cloudy
Moscow	5-7	cloudy
New York	10-12	cloudy
Paris	8-10	cloudy
Rome	12-15	cloudy
Sydney	18-20	cloudy
Tel Aviv	15-18	cloudy
Toronto	5-7	cloudy
Vienna	8-10	cloudy

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER
HELEN KAYE
JEST, the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater, premieres Ariel Dorfman's powerful *Death and the Maiden* in which a woman (Mel Brickman) confronts the man (Arthur Ingram) she believes to have been her torturer. Dorfman's tense political thriller is set in post-Pinochet Chile, but the human rights abuses it discusses haven't disappeared, there or anywhere else. Hillel Tryster directs. At the Gerard Behar Center tonight at 8.

LECTURE

HELEN KAYE
LETTY Cottin Pogrebin, feminist activist and pioneer, is the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony for Women Who Have Made a Difference. She replaces an ailing Gloria Steinem. Today is International Women's Day. At the Tel Aviv Cinematheque at 7. (English)

Jerusalem detective chief held for bribery

THE chief of detectives in the Jerusalem police, Supt. Arik Yisraeli, was remanded for eight days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday on suspicion of accepting bribes, breach of trust, and obstruction of justice.

The Justice Ministry's police investigations division arrested Yisraeli for allegedly organizing raids on certain illegal casinos at the request of rival casino operator Moshe Shemesh, in return for favors.

Shemesh, a Jerusalem restaurateur, was also remanded for eight days to give investigators time to complete their inquiries. Police say Shemesh promised Yisraeli lucrative employment abroad in exchange for the raids.

Yisraeli vehemently denied all al-

RAINE MARCUS

legations, saying Shemesh is an acquaintance and he did not accept bribes from him.

Ministry representative Yoram Sofer told the court that undercover investigations began a few months ago. The division, he added, had also received an anonymous letter implicating Yisraeli.

Yisraeli was questioned about a trip to Turkey which police suspect may have been financed by Shemesh. He denied the allegation, but could not produce receipts to prove he had paid for his own trip.

As chief of the capital's detective division, Yisraeli was in a position to decide which casinos police would raid. Sofer said he organized

such raids on Shemesh's rivals so the latter's business would thrive.

The suspect argued that his only crime is that he is Shemesh's friend and "went to drink coffee with him sometimes."

His lawyer said the arrest would totally destroy his career and that, since he has nothing to hide, he is cooperating fully with investigators.

Sofer, however, alleged that Yisraeli was promised a lucrative career by Shemesh with a company called Senes, which owns casinos abroad.

Judge Dan Arbel termed the allegations "very serious" and said that after examining confidential evidence he was convinced the remand was justified.



Supt. Arik Yisraeli (right), chief of the Jerusalem police detectives, appears in court yesterday where he was remanded on suspicion of taking bribes and other crimes. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

Police question wiretap suspect's lawyer

RAINE MARCUS

ATTORNEY Motti Katz was summoned for questioning for a second day yesterday in connection with the wiretapping case involving the leading newspapers, *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot*.

Katz is the defense lawyer of private investigator Rafi Friedman, accused together with his partner Ya'acov Tsor of tapping over 200 phones, cellular phones and faxes of businessmen, politicians and senior media personnel.

Yesterday Katz refused to go into detail about his questioning, saying only that he cooperated fully with police.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that he was questioned in connection with an alleged offer of \$50,000 to security company owner David Spector on behalf of *Ma'ariv*, in return for producing information implicating *Yediot* in illegal wiretapping.

Previously, Katz was questioned after being seen meeting secretly with *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrod, his father Ya'acov, and the daily's security officer David Ronen.

Katz was also questioned following a report that he received handwritten notes from another private investigator the day of Friedman's arrest, indicating the whereabouts of cars used for wiretapping. Katz has vehemently denied receiving such notes, saying he was framed. Police have found evidence supporting Katz's claims, a source said.

Security guard shoots 14-year-old boy

AN Ashdod security guard was arrested yesterday on suspicion of negligence and lying, after shooting an Arab boy whom he claimed had tried to steal his weapon.

The 14-year-old boy had come to the city with his family, who live in a village near Hebron and sell used goods. He went to an apartment building and asked a resident if he had any heaters to sell.

The guard, 28, who worked at a nearby building, saw him and said: "Palestinian, show me your identity card."

The boy then ran away and tried to hide in one of the buildings.

The guard drew his weapon and chased after him. A few minutes later, the guard saw the boy running out from a building, chased him, and shot him in the buttocks and the leg.

As the boy lay bleeding, the guard put his gun to his head and shouted to the neighbors: "Palestinian, Palestinian! Get the police!"

Police and an ambulance arrived at the scene, and the boy was brought to Barzilai Hospital. He was reported in good condition after surgery to remove the bullets.

The guard was immediately arrested. He told the police that the boy had tried to take his gun, and he was forced to shoot him. Police believe he is lying.

The guard will be face a remand hearing tomorrow, and police will also send him for psychological tests.

A week ago, a neighbor reportedly filed a complaint against the guard for aggressive behavior, saying he attacked him for no reason. However, police took no action.

Jewish Agency decides against meet in Kiev

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE opening session of the Jewish Agency Assembly will not be held in Kiev in June.

The cancellation is believed to have been motivated by diplomatic and security considerations, as well as by the high cost of such an event.

The agency spokesman said last night that, following telephone consultations between Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg and head of the Board of Governors Mendel Kaplan, it was decided to cancel the opening in Kiev and to hold it, as usual, in Jerusalem.

When the board met here two weeks ago, a decision was made to hold the first two days of the assembly in Kiev. The fund-raisers said they believed the additional contributions such a trip would elicit would far outweigh its costs. The move was immediately criticized by the media as well as in certain Jewish Agency circles.

At the time, Burg, who had only then assumed office, suggested that a final decision on the matter be made following consultations with

Israeli government authorities. In the past few days, Burg held consultations with the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry to examine the various implications of holding the session in Kiev with regard to the future activities of the agency in the region.

Yesterday Burg and Kaplan agreed that, under the present circumstances, it would not be in the interest of the Ukrainian Jewish community and would not help in promoting aliyah.

Burg said yesterday evening he had not been prepared to take even the slightest risk involved in holding the assembly in Kiev. "Despite the fact that we could have raised additional funds and contributions by holding it there, we thought the main consideration had to be: Is it good for the Jews?"

Sources in the agency said yesterday that from the outset, Burg had been troubled by the large outlay — \$500,000 — involved in flying and hosting 600 delegates in the Ukrainian capital.

Rabin stresses opportunity for peace to Reform rabbis

HERB KEINON

THE government will continue with the peace process as long as it has a majority in the Knesset, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a convention of Reform rabbis yesterday.

"I feel there is a window of opportunity, and I don't know how long it will remain open," he said.

"What is most important is not what the people want," Rabin told the opening session of the 106th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. "What is important is what is needed for the people."

To a friendly crowd, Rabin spoke of what he said are the government's guiding principles.

"I will not define a [final] map," Rabin said. "I am not guided by a map. I am guided by principles."

Rabin said he is guided by a desire not to rule over another entity, and the Palestinians are a different entity. "At the same time, he said, Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli rule, the Jordan River and valley will remain the eastern security border, and Israel "will not automatically return to the pre-1967 lines."

Rabin said he believes Jews have the right to all of Eretz Yisrael. "But," he added, "I believe the success of the Zionist mission is to establish a Jewish state, not only in name, but also in demography. That at least 80 percent of the citizens will be Jewish. Not to allow false messianism to lead to a bi-national state."

Rabin said there are 4.4 million Jews and 3 million Palestinians between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. This, he said,

includes 800,000-900,000 Palestinians in Gaza, 1.2 million in Judea and Samaria, 160,000-180,000 in Jerusalem, and 900,000 "Israeli Arabs, who consider themselves Palestinians."

"One small party understands the demographic situation and advocates transfer," Rabin said. "The others do not say it, but would transfer apartheid to Israel. If there is something that is Jewish, it is that racism and Judaism are in the sharpest contrast."

Rabin enumerated what he said are the two primary threats to the peace process — Islamic fundamentalist terror and the fear among some Arab elements that "Israel is going to conquer the Arab world economically. We want partnership," but will not impose economic relations on countries that are not interested.

One issue that the prime minister did not touch on during his speech was Jewish religious pluralism in the country, something foremost in the minds of many of the rabbis.

"If in the new Middle East, Israel can recognize the PLO, then it should be able to recognize Reform Judaism," said Rabbi Amiel Hirsch, head of Artza, the Reform Movement's Zionist Organization. "I would have liked to hear him say something about furthering pluralism."

MKs savage civil service chief over Rackover

LIAT COLLINS

CIVIL SERVICE Commissioner Yitzhak Galnoor must have wished he'd let sleeping dogs lie, as he faced an angry Knesset House Committee yesterday. The MKs attacked him for instigating disciplinary action against Deputy Attorney-General Nahum Rackover, an expert on Jewish law, for his comments on bestiality in the Knesset two weeks ago.

Rackover told a committee discussing equal opportunities that the logical conclusion of the High Court precedent granting free travel to the live-in lover of a homosexual El Al steward, just as in the case of a spouse, is that someone who had sex with his pet could demand for equal rights for the animal.

"The only question I considered was the behavior of a public servant, not his expertise in Jewish law, not the contents of the discussion itself, and certainly not Jewish law," Galnoor said.

Committee chairman Hagai Merom condemned Galnoor for creating a situation in which experts would fear to express their opinions before Knesset committees.

"You should have some sense," said Zvulun Hammer (NRP), adding: "If [Galnoor] can admit he made a mistake, maybe he can be forgiven, otherwise it is he who should be investigated and thrown out, not Rackover."

Even Justice Minister David Li- ba'i withdrew his support from Galnoor and called on him to reconsider his approach.

Labor plans damage-control team for Histadrut fallout

SARAH HONIG

THE Labor Party intends to set up a special team to assess the damage which the revelations of corruption in the Histadrut are causing the party. The fear in the Labor leadership is that the damage is already considerable and will only increase, despite the party's attempts to draw a distinction between itself and its representatives in the Histadrut.

The mounting fears in Labor are giving new impetus to demands that the party rethink the primaries system, which many, according to Secretary-General Nissim Zivili, see as responsible for much of the wrongdoing in the Histadrut.

Many of the episodes disclosed thus far deal with attempts to gain advantage via use of Histadrut funds in the party primaries. "Many people are coming to me now and saying that if the primaries can do all this, in their very first round in the party, what can we expect later on?" Zivili said. "Perhaps the detriments of this system far outweigh its merits? This is what I am being asked and I agree that the questions need to be considered very carefully."

The state of the party following the furor in the Histadrut will be deliberated tomorrow at the party political bureau's weekly meeting, in what is expected to be a very heated session. Already on the agenda is the proposal to readmit Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon and MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital to Labor. This, too, has become a far more emotive issue than it was a few days ago, as many in the party

now blame Ramon and his supporters for informing on their Labor predecessors in the Histadrut and for supplying the police with material against Labor higher-ups.

Zivili, however, came to Ramon's defense yesterday, saying that "It is clear to us that Ramon did not instigate any of this. The police involvement in the Histadrut case was the outcome of a wholly unconnected police investigation." In fact, it is widely agreed now that the police stumbled on the Histadrut corruption case when it investigated the wire-tapping in the tabloids and came across the private investigators hired to spy after Ramon in the 1994 Histadrut campaign.

No operative decisions are expected regarding the Histadrut affair, but Zivili promised yesterday the bureau members would be let in on all that is already known.

He stressed the Labor line again: "The party is not connected to any of the goings-on in the Histadrut. Our funds are one thing and theirs are another and the two sets of book-keeping — the Histadrut's and the party's — are separate. If some members of Labor have done wrong, this has no bearing upon the party."

Zivili is slated to deliver a detailed version of just how Labor is connected with the Histadrut's Mifalei Hinnuch Vetarbut Company, through whose services, it is alleged, Labor sought to finance its Histadrut campaign last year. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is also due to address the members on the subject.



Philippine national Joss Matias appears in court yesterday after being remanded for 14 more days on suspicion of murdering, along with an accomplice, three persons. (Israel Sun)

Double murder suspects remanded 14 more days

RAINE MARCUS

PHILIPPINE nationals Joss Matias and Marilita Belbiran, suspected of the murder of Filipina maid Rosita Salalita last August and of the double murder of Avner Harel and his girlfriend Filipina Donna Pinol around six weeks ago, were remanded for 14 more days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Matias's nephew, identified by the police as "Joey," fled the country before the arrests and now his uncle is trying to pin the blame for the murders on him.

"At first I told the police I held the knife," Matias told Judge Yehudit Amsterdam, "but in fact Joey used it" to stab the victims.

"I am not capable of killing," he said, "but I request forgiveness from God, you, and my children," he said.

"What about forgiveness from Donna Pinol and Avner Harel?" retorted Amsterdam.

The alleged murderers also threatened their victims with a stolen pistol, police revealed yesterday.

They did not fire it, apparently because of the noise gunshots would make.

But detectives are still puzzled how Harel's car, containing his and Pinol's bodies, arrived at the entrance to the Morasha Cemetery a week after they were murdered. The car, its engine running, was found by a passing patrolman.

Police are investigating whether an additional accomplice drove the car from Petah Tikva, where it had been left for a week, or the slim chance that a thief stole the car. Matias told police that during the week he had checked if the car was still near Beilinson Hospital where he had left it.

Belbiran denied being present at both murder scenes, but police said that her earlier statements contradict these claims. They are now checking her alibis to verify which version is correct. By law, if she knew of the killings in advance, she may be charged with murder, punishable by a life sentence.

Olmert rejects criticism from US Christians

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert rejected yesterday the criticism of eight US Christian leaders who urged the Clinton administration to press Israel to stop annexing Arab land in the capital.

"There are many more Christian leaders in the United States who call [on] President Clinton to recognize Jerusalem as the sole capital of the State of Israel and the Jewish people," Olmert told Reuters.

In a statement Monday that angered US Jewish groups, the Christian leaders, including the president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, asked to meet Clinton and urged him to place the question of Jerusalem higher on his agenda.

Olmert said: "By and large the American public opinion understands that while we have to keep complete religious freedom in Jerusalem, as we do for Christians and Muslims and Jews alike, Jerusalem politically is a capital of one people."

The statement by the Christian leaders said that, in violation of international law, land was being taken from Palestinians by annexation, expropriation and private purchase. (Reuters)

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